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2 U.S. soldiers killed in Afghanistan

BY NOOR KHAN

The Associated Press

QALAT, Afghanistan — Two American soldiers died Sunday from wounds received in a battle with suspected Taliban fighters in eastern Afghanistan, while hundreds of Taliban fighters poured into remote southern mountains to join a weeklong battle against Afghan forces and their U.S. allies.

The soldiers died after a 90-minute gunbattle in Afghanistan's eastern Paktika province. Another soldier was wounded and reported in stable condition at a treatment facility at a coalition outpost north of Shkin. The identities of the soldiers have not been released.

"The U.S. forces were conducting a combat mission in the vicinity of a firebase near Shkin when the engagement occurred," the U.S. military said in a state-

ment. "Two of the soldiers died of wounds received during the initial contact with enemy fighters northwest of Shkin, in Paktika province this morning," the U.S. military statement said.

Four insurgents were killed during the battle, he said.

The soldiers' deaths came after a U.S. special operations soldier was killed Friday in a fall during a combat operation in southern Zabul province, the scene of a week of intense fighting. A week earlier a SEAL was killed in combat in eastern Afghanistan.

In all, 35 U.S. soldiers have been killed in action in Afghanistan, and 162 wounded due to hostilities, the U.S. military said.

On Sunday, hundreds of Taliban reinforcements poured into the mountain region as U.S. fighter jets supporting heavily armed Afghan soldiers pummeled entrenched rebel positions for a seventh day, an Afghan military commander said.

Dozens of suspected Taliban have been killed in the onslaught, one of the fiercest since the hardline group was driven from power in late 2001.

The latest bombing lasted three hours and ended shortly before dawn Sunday, said Khalil Hotak, the intelligence chief of southern Zabul province.

Afghan soldiers swept through the area in Dai Chupan district afterward and claimed to have seen 14 newly killed Taliban fighters, according to Hotak. There were no reports of casualties among government forces.

U.S. military spokesman Col. Rodney Davis said Saturday that two American soldiers had been wounded in the fighting this week.

Another American soldier died in a fall during a nighttime combat operation on Friday.

Khan, the Afghan commander, said Sunday that intelligence indicated more than 250 Taliban reinforcements had arrived from the neighboring district of Mizan.

Iraq raid fails to deliver wanted guerrillas

BY HRVOJE HRANJSKI

The Associated Press

HAMREEN, Iraq — Like many other raids, Operation Arrow Sky began with an impressive display of American fire power. A 67-vehicle convoy of Humvees and Bradleys, backed by Apache helicopter gunships, set out before dawn Sunday for a remote eastern hamlet where U.S. troops suspected five guerrillas were hiding.

Searching house-to-house, more than 100 soldiers of the Fort Hood, Texas-based 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery, broke down doors, woke up Iraqi families and separated out the men, ordering them to lie face down at gunpoint. About 13 had their hands tied with plastic zipcuffs, some were blindfolded and taken to a gas station, where they were made to sit, surrounded by barbed wire, while each was questioned.

At the end of the operation, the five "primary targets" were not found. Soldiers seized several old, battered Russian-made rifles, a bag-full of electrical wires and used batteries and a homemade light switch, which Maj. Eric Schwegler, the raid commander, said could be used in an explosive device.

Immediately after the U.S.-led coalition seized Iraq in April, similar robust raids were catching big fish and depriving the Fedayeen Saddam militia of key guerrilla fighters, organizers and paymasters. But months later, the raids are paying poor returns and have decreased in frequency.

Army officials at the 4th Infantry Division, which controls three provinces in the Sunni heartland, where support for Saddam is strongest, said they had launched division-wide Operation Ivy Needle last month in a bid to trap former regime loyalists, Baath party members and Fedayeen guerrillas in remote areas where the U.S. military has no permanent presence.

Maj. Josslyn Aberle, spokeswoman for the 4th Infantry, said midlevel operators, financiers and planners of attacks on coalition forces might have moved from urban centers like Tikrit, Balad and Baqouba into the countryside, hoping to avoid arrest.

Sunday's raid came after "human intelligence sources" — the military term usually meaning Iraqi informants — tipped off the Army to the presence of suspects in Hamreen, about 12 miles east of Saddam's hometown of Tikrit,



MURAD SEZER/AP

A U.S. Army soldier from the 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery stands guard Sunday near handcuffed Iraqi detainees during a pre-dawn raid in the village of Hamreen, Iraq. Five suspected guerrillas targeted in the raid were not found, the Army said.

said Schwegler, 37, from Ozark, Alabama.

"We have received information that ex-regime loyalists are operating in the area. They are not necessarily Fedayeen. But the targets were not there," he said. "We have seized 20 secondary objectives" — Iraqis who were detained because they may have information about the original suspects — "but identifying them is a long process because many of them have no proper documentation."

"We try to explain to the people that in order to catch a big fish, you have to cast a big net," he said. "In our experience, they understand that."

Among those handcuffed was Mnwaher Mehsein Ali, who couldn't remember his exact age — 90 or 100. Half deaf, making small steps with the help of a stick, he said he had never seen or heard of any Fedayeen. "This is a clean area," he told reporters, referring to the guerrillas who are suspected of planting a homemade bomb that killed one U.S. soldier from the 4th Battalion earlier this month.

Ali's three sons also were detained, along with a 15-year-old.

"Our families are scared," said Thani Mushlah, 33, Ali's neighbor who was also rounded up. "This is humiliating. This is an insult. I was sleeping on my roof when the helicopter closed in on my house. They broke down the door, they made me lie face down in front of my children."

"We thought the Americans came as liberators. We hoped they came to seek our cooperation, not to insult us," he said.

Schwegler, the raid commander, acknowledged that "what we're doing today may seem harsh, but it is to see that everyone is protected."

He said suspected Saddam loyalists were increasingly burying caches of weapons and ammunition outside their houses, knowing that U.S. troops search their homes. Soldiers were sweeping across fields with metal detectors in the hunt for arms, he said.

Those detained will be interrogated and released if innocent, he added.

FBI asked to investigate shrine bombing

The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — The provincial governor called for FBI help Sunday to investigate the bombing at Iraq's holiest Shiite Muslim shrine and police say the device that killed at least 85 people and maybe as many as 125 was the equivalent of 1,650 pounds of TNT.

More than 300,000 Shiites marched toward Najaf from Baghdad behind a truck carrying a symbolic coffin representing their beloved Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim — killed in the enormous blast as Friday prayers ended at the Iman Ali shrine. A three-day period of mourning began early Sunday with services at the al-Kadhimiya shrine in Baghdad.

At the halfway point, the second holiest Shiite city of Karbala, three thousand mourners had gathered at the shrine there, praying, beating drums and flagellating themselves with chains as the ayatollah's coffin and the huge procession neared. The funeral is planned for Tuesday in Najaf.

Authorities said they could find only al-Hakim's hand, watch, wedding band and pen in the wreckage.

The U.S.-led Coalition Provisional Authority said Najaf Governor Haider Mehadi asked for the FBI to join Iraqi police in the investigation, and that the American investigators would be traveling to Najaf shortly. The U.S. occupation authority had taken a hands-off approach out of deference to the sacredness of the location for Shiites.

FBI agents are leading the investigations into both the Aug. 7 bombing of the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad and attack on the U.N. headquarters 12 days later.

Iraqi police told The Associated Press they have arrested 19 men — many of them foreigners and all with admitted links to al-Qaida — in connection with the blast. However, many Shiites blame the cleric's death on Saddam loyalists and the U.S.-led coalition, which they say has failed to provide adequate security in the country since the dictator's fall.

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Poll: Public worry about Iraq growing

The Associated Press

Public confidence in the Bush administration's handling of Iraq is slipping, says a poll that indicates more people now think the United States is not in control of events there.

People were about evenly divided on the question of whether things are going well in Iraq concerning the goal of bringing stability, with 51 percent saying yes and 47 percent saying no, according to the CBS News poll released Friday. In early July, 60 percent said yes and 36 percent said no.

Asked whether the U.S. is in control in Iraq, 42 percent said yes, and 47 percent said no.

Seven in 10, including just over half of Republicans, say the United Nations should take the lead role in establishing a government in Iraq. The Bush administration is currently discussing what role the U.N. should take in Iraq.

Public sentiment about how things are going in Iraq shows a strong partisan split, with 73 percent of Republicans saying things are going well, along with 30 percent of Democrats. Independents were evenly split on that question.

Only a third said the United States should decrease the number of U.S. troops there, however.

About 32 percent said the threat of terrorism has increased because of U.S. military action in Iraq, while 19 percent think it has decreased. The rest said it was about the same.

Bush's overall job approval rating was 55 percent, unchanged from the last CBS poll.

The poll of 930 adults was taken Aug. 26-28 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

From The Associated Press

Bombing

Continued from Page 1

In Najaf, Maj. Rick Hall, spokesman for the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines said the death toll now stood at 125 with 142 wounded, some seriously. He also said the Marine hand-over of the territory this week to an international force led by Poland had been put on hold indefinitely.

"We now want to stay here and assist as much as possible," Hall said.

He said U.S. forces had two men in custody that were handed to them by Iraqi authorities.

"We are questioning them, but we are leaning toward releasing them," Hall said, adding that the involvement of al-Qaida members in the Friday explosion was "an option we are looking at."

Hall denied reports that the Marines would patrol around the shrine, citing Islamic sensitivities to having non-Muslims in or around the most holy of Shiite sites. He said U.S. forces had offered Marine patrols of the area to the interim Governing Council in Baghdad and religious leaders in Najaf. An answer was expected in the next day or two, he said.

Police detained two Iraqis and two Saudis shortly after the Friday attack, and they provided information leading to the arrest of 15 other suspects, said a senior police official in Najaf, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Two Kuwaitis and six Palestinians with Jordanian passports were among the suspects, the official said. The remainder were Iraqis and Saudis, the official said, without giving a breakdown.

Hall said American forces had no access to those in Iraqi police custody, but said he had heard numbers ranging from nine to 19.

Police said there were similarities between the mosque bombing and the two other recent attacks at the Jordanian Embassy and the United Nations.

Iraqi police said the bomb at the Imam Ali Shrine — the burial place of the son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad — was made from the same type of materials used in the previous bomb attacks.

A key figure in the U.S.-picked Governing Council wrote in a Washington Post op-ed column Sunday that the United States needed to include Iraqis in their own security.

"America must reach out to its friends and allies in Iraq to share the burden of defeating Saddam once and for all," wrote Ahmad Chalabi, leader of the Iraqi National Congress.

"You have the firepower and mobility, we have the local knowledge and intelligence. Only if we work as true partners will we achieve the victory that is so vital to both our countries," he wrote.

News tracker: What's new with old news

Nation

Villanova professor dies in custody: A Villanova University professor charged with killing her baby daughter with a kitchen knife apparently committed suicide in jail by putting a plastic garbage bag over her head, authorities said.

Mine Ener was found unconscious Saturday with the bag over her head while lying on a mattress in a common area outside a group of cells, Sheriff Bob Fletcher said.

She was being held on a charge of second-degree murder after allegedly cutting the throat of her 6-month-old daughter, Raya Donagi, during a visit to her mother's St. Paul home earlier this month.

Green River killings: Detectives investigating the Green River killings found human bones Saturday as they searched a wooded area near Snoqualmie, Wash.

Detective Kathleen Larson of the King County sheriff's office said the remains were found off Interstate 90 east of the Snoqualmie Parkway, about 25 miles east of Seattle.

A total of 49 women are believed to have died at the hands of the Green River Killer in the early 1980s. The case was named after the river in South King County where the first bodies were dumped.

Authorities will not be able to say whether the bones are connected to the Green River killings, Larson said, until they are identified by forensic scientists.

Ten Commandments battle: Alabama's chief justice appreciates the gesture from Gaston County, N.C., but Roy Moore plans to keep his monument of the Ten Commandments close by while he fights in court.

Gaston commissioners this past week voted to offer to haul the monument to Gastonia and display it on the county courthouse grounds.

The monument, which Moore installed in the Alabama Judicial Building two years ago, was moved to a private area Wednesday to comply with a court order that found it violated a constitutional ban on government promotion of religious doctrine.

A spokeswoman for Moore said Friday that he wants to keep the 2½-ton monument and eventually get it back in the building's rotunda.

Peterson burials: The bodies of Laci Peterson and her son Connor were buried together in a private ceremony four months after they washed ashore on San Francisco Bay, a family spokeswoman said Saturday.

About 250 relatives and friends attended the 30-minute service Friday, said Kim Petersen, a spokeswoman for Laci's family. Mourners released a pair of doves, representing Laci and Connor, and then 20 more, representing angels.

The burials followed a funeral mass at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Modesto.

Laci Peterson, 27, was eight months pregnant when she disappeared from her Modesto home Christmas Eve.

Her husband, Scott Peterson, 30, remains jailed on charges of murdering his pregnant wife and unborn son. He has pleaded innocent.

Priest shot: A former altar boy who avoided prison after shooting a priest he had accused of sexual abuse was jailed Friday for violating his house detention.

Dontee Stokes, 27, who has served 15 months of an 18-month term for his 2002 conviction on gun charges, attended a local arts festival without court permission. Under terms of his house detention, Stokes, a barber, is allowed to leave home only to go to work and attend church.

Stokes' attorney, Warren Brown, said he would likely only spend between 7 and 14 days in jail before becoming eligible for probation.

Circuit Judge John N. Prevas said he was not happy with "Stokes' attitude" about home detention, adding Stokes' "true personality has finally shined through."

Also this week, Stokes was charged with assaulting the mother of his child, according to court documents. Prevas did not mention the allegations at Friday's hearing.

Stokes was acquitted of the May 13, 2002, attempted murder of the Rev. Maurice J. Blackwell. Stokes claimed temporary insanity, testifying he had an out-of-body experience while confronting Blackwell about the alleged sexual abuse.

Blackwell was indicted for sexually assaulting Stokes between 1989 and 1992. He has denied the allegations and is set to stand trial in November.

Recall election: A three-judge federal panel has decided to wait a week before ruling on lawsuits that seek to postpone California's historic recall election because it might disenfranchise minority voters.

The judges on Friday also continued a temporary restraining order that prevents Monterey County elections officials from mailing absentee ballots to overseas voters. The order was first issued Aug. 15, after the lawsuits were filed. The panel said it would not rule on the lawsuits until Sept. 5.

World

Violence in Congo: Tribal fighters killed at least 200 people and abducted scores more over the last month in a series of attacks that destroyed a town controlled by a rival tribe in volatile northeastern Congo, an official from a tribal militia said Sunday.

Repeated attacks by fighters from the Lendu tribe on Fataki, a town 37 miles northwest of Bunia that was controlled by the rival Hema tribe, forced thousands of residents to flee, said Saba Rafiki, security chief for the Union of Congolese Patriots, a militia from the Hema tribe.

Housing in Kabul: The U.N. refugee agency said it will build more homes and shelters for refugees who have returned to the crowded Afghan capital, as the world body's expert on housing rights arrived Sunday for an official visit.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will repair 30 abandoned public buildings and help build 1,500 housing units for returnees who have land but can't afford to build on it, said Maki Shinohara, the agency's spokeswoman in Afghanistan.

UTA bombing talks: Talks between France and Libya to up the compensation for families of victims of a 1989 passenger jet bombing are headed in the right direction, the French Foreign Ministry said Sunday.

President Jacques Chirac spoke Sunday afternoon by telephone with Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, the ministry statement said — a concrete sign of progress.

The news came a day after a delegation representing families of victims of the UTA bombing that killed 170 people flew to Tripoli. Libya had refused authorization for their plane to fly there four days earlier, and the change of heart signaled potential progress.

Afghan voter registration: A lack of funds could delay voter registration planned to start this October for next year's Afghanistan general elections, a U.N. spokesman said Sunday.

The United Nations has said the registration will cost about \$80 million, but spokesman Manoel de Almeida e Silva said the response has been slow from donor nations helping to rebuild the country after two decades of war.

The transitional government of President Hamid Karzai has set up a new department to register voters — expected to include about 10 million of Afghanistan's estimated 25 million people. Citizens 18 and older will be eligible to vote.

SARS precautions: A Hong Kong hospital has quarantined 11 patients and three staff as a precaution against a SARS comeback after they developed flu-like symptoms, officials said Saturday.

A nurse, two health care assistants, and 11 patients at the Castle Peak Hospital were being checked for influenza after they began developing runny noses and sore throats starting Tuesday, the hospital said.

War on terrorism

New high-security terrorist prison: Indonesia will build a new maximum-security prison for convicted terrorists on a notorious penal colony island off the north coast of Java, news reports said Sunday.

Amrozi bin Nurhasyim, found guilty Aug. 7 of involvement in last year's nightclub bombings on Bali island, will soon be transferred to the prison island, news Web site detik.com quoted provincial police chief Didi Widayadi as saying. Amrozi is appealing a death sentence.

The terrorist jail will be among three to be built on Nusakambangan island — a penal colony opened in 1923 by Indonesia's former Dutch colonial rulers — said Justice Minister Yusril Ihza Mahendra.

Justice ministry officials couldn't be reached for comment Sunday.

Moussaoui trial: A federal judge is granting accused terrorist Zacarias Moussaoui access to two al-Qaida captives whose testimony might be helpful to the defense, according to news reports.

In a ruling Friday, U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema approved Moussaoui's request for testimony from Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the alleged mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, and Mustafa Ahmed al-Hawsawi, who allegedly funneled money to the Sept. 11 hijackers, according to the reports.

Military

Anti-terror training: More than 600 Georgian soldiers on Saturday marked completion of anti-terrorism training conducted by the U.S. military in a program aimed at boosting the capacities of the underfunded army.

The soldiers, whose training completion was recognized in a ceremony at a main square in Georgia's capital, Tbilisi, were the third group to undergo instruction in a program started by the United States in the spring of 2002.

From wire reports

News from around the war

Lawmakers want specifics on Iraq

WASHINGTON — Senators from both parties demanded more specifics from the Bush administration Sunday on its plans for nursing Iraq back into a viable state. They promised, however, to provide what is necessary to do the job.

"Freedom isn't free. We know this is costly," said Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz.

Only Sen. Dick Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, came up with a specific figure: \$30 billion over five years.

"I think that is a period of time that will bring stability and give certainty of the Iraqis that we're not going to leave," the Indiana Republican said on "Fox News Sunday."

The Lugar formula, more than \$115 million weekly, is in addition to military expenses currently running about \$3.9 billion a month.

Pentagon officials said last week that the administration might ask this month for additional billions to supplement \$62.6 billion in emergency outlays Congress voted for in April. The administration has not said how much it will request for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1.

"The administration should level with the American people about the cost and commitment required to transform Iraq," Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who recently returned from Iraq, wrote in a Sunday op-ed piece in *The Washington Post*.

"There is an insufficient sense of urgency in Washington, and needs on the ground in Iraq are going unmet," McCain said.

"Contrary to administration assurances, our military force levels are obviously inadequate. A visitor quickly learns in conversations with U.S. military personnel that we need to deploy at least another division" and recruit foreign forces from Muslim and other countries.

Appearing on ABC's "This Week" with Kyl, a fellow Senate Intelligence Committee member, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said: "We're going to provide whatever resources our troops need to be safe in what they are doing and to come home safely," but he objected to financing the war by "borrowing money from the Social Security trust fund."

"This is just like Vietnam," Durbin said. "It's being paid for by deficit spending that we ultimately have to face and pay."

Experts: Bribes bought Saddam allies

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Back when Iraq was allowed to sell its oil solely to buy food, medicine and other essentials, Saddam Hussein perfected a variety of ploys for using crude to buy friends and enrich himself, Iraqi and international experts say.

The former Iraqi president paid bribes of cheap crude to more than 500 foreigners "from the United States to Japan," cultivating a network of sympathizers that he hoped would help overturn U.N. economic sanctions against Iraq, a senior oil ministry official says.

The experts say Saddam also generated income for his personal use by colluding with overseas companies to receive kickbacks for importing outdated medicines and other shoddy merchandise under the U.N. oil-for-food program, and by smuggling crude to neighboring countries for as little as \$5 a barrel.

These ruses were part of a systematic effort to loosen U.N. financial constraints on Iraq, the oil ministry official and analysts said in recent interviews.

The official, who has worked for many years in senior ministry positions, has an intimate knowledge of sales contracts for crude shipped under the oil-for-food program. He spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals by colleagues sympathetic to the ousted Iraqi dictator.

In 1996, the United Nations relaxed the sanctions it imposed after Saddam's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, letting Iraq export oil and use its earnings to pay for food and other humanitarian imports.

Saddam evaded its restrictions often enough to enrich himself, his family and his most loyal supporters. Saddam's "private treasure" was the State Oil Marketing Organization, or SOMO, the official sales agency for Iraqi oil, the official said.

Leo Drollas, chief economist for the London-based Center for Global Energy Studies, agreed that Saddam used SOMO to bypass the oil ministry and control Iraq's oil revenues.

"SOMO was at the heart of the nest of vipers," Drollas said.

"It was not the innocent kind of technocratic organization that people perceived it to be. It reported directly to Saddam and took orders directly from him."

Iraq boasts the world's second-largest proven oil reserves and was pumping about 2.5 million barrels a day on the eve of the U.S.-led war. SOMO was reconstituted after the war and continues to arrange the country's crude exports.

Under the oil-for-food program, Iraq frequently sold its oil at a discount and in return demanded kickbacks from its customers in the form of illegal surcharges added to the price.

In the same way, Iraq's former president wooed friends abroad, "from the United States to Japan, scattered everywhere," the oil ministry official said. He estimated that more than 500 foreigners accepted such bribes, many of them Russian politicians.

"He was buying friends. There's no doubt," Drollas said.

Troops attack Taliban hideouts

QALAT, Afghanistan — The U.S. military said Saturday that a weeklong campaign of bombing and intense ground battles on the craggy mountain ridges of southern Afghanistan have killed dozens of Taliban holdouts.

U.S. special operations forces and hundreds of allied Afghan soldiers were pressing their assault, taking several strategic peaks and laying siege to positions of the hardline Islamic militant group. Two U.S. soldiers were wounded in the fighting.

A provincial intelligence chief said that for the first time in the recent assault, American warplanes operated during daylight hours on Saturday, in support of a joint U.S.-Afghan operation that has met stiff resistance.

After two nights of bombing, the planes pounded the Chinaran mountains and two nearby areas in southern Zabul province by day, Khalil Hotak told *The Associated Press* from his command center in Qalat, 45 miles south of the fighting.

"Our forces are on the tops of the mountains. They have laid siege to the area and the Taliban hideouts," Hotak said.

This week's fighting follows a recent surge in military action by the Taliban, which has staged deadly attacks on Afghan forces, officials and aid workers in an apparent bid to undermine the government of President Hamid Karzai.

The assaults have created new doubts about how much progress has been made by the U.S.-led effort to secure and rebuild the war-battered nation. The violence also raised serious concerns that the increasingly well-organized Taliban are regrouping after their harsh Islamic regime was toppled by U.S.-led forces in late 2001.

Pakistani paramilitary troops detained 26 suspected militants on suspicion they were involved in recent Taliban attacks in Afghanistan, a law enforcement official said Saturday.

Pakistani security forces also seized a cache of weapons and ammunition during a Friday raid on a house in the border town of Chaman, Col. Abdul Basit of the Frontier Constabulary told reporters.

The joint U.S. and Afghan attacks have centered on the remote Dai Chupan district in Zabul, which Hotak described as a Taliban stronghold from where the insurgents stage their operations into neighboring provinces. The U.S. military has called the area "a base of anti-coalition activity."

Col. Rodney Davis, spokesman for the U.S. military in Afghanistan, told reporters Saturday that at least 33 insurgents had been killed in fighting with coalition and Afghan militia forces between Monday and Wednesday.

Hotak said 35 Taliban were killed Thursday and Friday, and the provincial governor said a similar number of insurgents were killed earlier in the week.

The battles in Zabul have been "at times, intense," Davis said, adding that two U.S. soldiers have been wounded but their lives were not in danger.

On Friday, a special operations soldier died in an accidental fall during a nighttime assault, the second American soldier to die in less than two weeks in Afghanistan.

Inspector decries British dossier

ATHENS, Greece — A British intelligence dossier "did not correspond to reality" by suggesting Saddam Hussein's regime could deploy weapons of mass destruction within 45 minutes, the chief U.N. weapons inspector claims.

Dimitris Perricos, who replaced Hans Blix in June as the top U.N. weapons inspector for Iraq, also said that inspections found no evidence to support U.S. and British claims that Saddam possessed an arsenal capable of widespread death and damage, according to an interview published in Sunday's *Eleftherotypia* newspaper.

"There is no doubt that the phrase of 'within 45 minutes' that was included in the British report did not correspond to reality," Perricos said in the article.

The wording of the report is part of a high-level inquiry in Britain into the apparent suicide of a weapons scientist, David Kelly, who was identified as the source for a British Broadcasting Corp. claim the government "sexed up" intelligence about Iraq's weapons programs to build support for war.

"The assertion that the Iraqis had a capability to inflict overwhelming destruction within 45 minutes is collapsing. The uranium never existed, and the aluminum pipes that supposedly they used in the enrichment of uranium possibly were just intended to be used for bombshells," said Perricos.

Perricos, who is Greek, said no "smoking gun" has been found so far in Iraq and that teams of American, British and Australian troops are still searching for evidence of chemical, biological and other weapons.

"No one, of course, should go to war for a [weapons] program if they do not know if the weapons have been created," he added.

Last WTC firefighter funeral planned

NEW YORK — A funeral will be held Sept. 8 for Michael Ragusa, the last of the 343 firefighters lost in the World Trade Center attack to have an official service in his memory.

Ragusa, who was 29, was a firefighter for Engine 279 in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn.

Many families held memorial services before any remains were identified for their loved ones, but Ragusa's family waited. His remains still have not been found, but the family decided it was time to hold a funeral.

"You come to realize you cannot do this to yourself forever — this could go on for years," Michael's mother, Dee Ragusa, told the *Daily News* in Sunday editions.

The medical examiner has identified about 54 percent of the 2,792 victims. Scientists expect to exhaust all available DNA technology as early as next year, although unidentified remains will be stored in case new methods are developed.

Instead of Ragusa's remains, his family will bury a vial of blood he had donated to a bone marrow center. The vial will be placed in a casket and interred at Resurrection Cemetery in Staten Island.

The funeral will be held at St. Bernard's Church in Bergen Beach, Brooklyn, where the firefighter was born and raised.

Representatives from the city Fire Department and the office of Mayor Michael Bloomberg are expected to attend the services.

Financial aid for Iraq difficult to find

WASHINGTON — Soldiers aren't the only foreign contribution in short supply for the U.S. effort in Iraq. So is money.

U.S. officials are finding it hard to persuade allies to help underwrite the costs of policing and rebuilding the ravaged country, even as Congress steps up pressure on the administration to find a way to share the burden.

After months of appeals from U.S. and U.N. leaders, key foreign governments including Russia, China, France and Germany remain adamant that they will not contribute in those fields, U.S. officials say.

The issue has taken on new urgency in recent days as the Bush administration has begun preparing a supplemental budget request that officials say could reach as much as \$3 billion. U.S. officials had expected that renewed Iraqi oil exports would help finance reconstruction, but exports have rebounded more slowly than expected, at least in part due to looting and sabotage.

The anticipated budget request is alarming lawmakers, who see it as evidence that the burden on U.S. taxpayers will far outstrip expectations.

To increase foreign contributions, U.S. officials have been working with the United Nations to arrange a "donors conference" in Madrid in late October that they hope will bring commitments of billions of dollars. Yet one U.S. official acknowledged the frustration of trying to gain aid commitments.

"We are really puzzled on how to get more aid from these countries, when they have been refusing now for such a long time," the official said.

Officials of the reluctant countries, all of which opposed the Iraq war, insist that they intend to help the Iraqis. Several say they are already contributing to humanitarian relief. But they also say they cannot contribute to the reconstruction and security effort unless the United States agrees to give other governments a significant role, and agrees to more transparency on how aid money is used.

The issue has become entangled in an intensifying behind-the-scenes debate among diplomats over whether there should be a new U.N. Security Council resolution that would shift some authority in Iraq from the United States to the international community.

In the past week, U.S. diplomats have stepped up their efforts to find a compromise that would give other countries a voice in Iraq, and by doing so, bring in more foreign money and peacekeeping troops.

President Bush has said that he wants to give the United Nations a "vital role" in Iraq. Yet it remains unclear whether the White House would agree to a new arrangement — long opposed by the Pentagon — that would divide decision-making in the country.

U.S. officials say their effort to secure more aid, which some jokingly call "Operation Tin Cup," has been long and frustrating.

From wire reports

Evidence suggests Saudi extremists are in Iraq

BY FAIZA SALEH AMBAH

The Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Despite official denials, there have been signs for months that Saudi Muslim extremists have traveled to Iraq to take on U.S.-led forces.

Internet memorials to those who died fighting the Americans have popped up and Saudis are quietly swapping tales said to be from the front lines. Many of the men going to Iraq had previously fought in Afghanistan, Chechnya and Bosnia and were experts on guerrilla warfare, said Abdullah Bjad al-Otaibi, who once counted himself among the extremists and now writes about them for Saudi newspapers.

Saudi extremists are "looking to die and the quickest way to heaven, as far as they're concerned, is fighting infidels, in this case represented by the U.S. forces in Iraq," al-Otaibi said.

"Nothing inflames their emotions like the presence of U.S. troops in a Muslim country. The presence of the troops in Iraq, especially with the instability there, is like a magnet to them."

Saudi officials, though, sensitive to any charges extremism may be emanating from the kingdom, have categorically dismissed the possibility their citizens are fighting in Iraq. In an interview with the London-based Arabic newspaper Al-Hayat published Saturday, Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef called such allegations "baseless."

In Washington last week, Saudi foreign policy adviser Adel al-Jubeir challenged the U.S. administration to prove suggestions from U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage and others that some of those attacking U.S. troops in postwar Iraq were from Saudi Arabia.

"We have no evidence of Saudis crossing into Iraq and we have received no evidence from the U.S. government," al-Jubeir told The Associated Press.

Both al-Jubeir and Nayef spoke before Iraqi police said Saturday at least two Saudis were among more than a dozen foreigners and Iraqis arrested in connection with the bombing a day earlier of Iraq's holiest Shiite Muslim shrine. An Iraqi investigator, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the two Saudis and others arrested admitted connections to Saudi-born dissident Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

Al-Qaida is a Sunni Muslim group whose followers may have seen no contradiction in attacking a shrine holy to the minority Shiite Muslim sect. The strict form of Sunni Islam known as Wahhabism practiced in Saudi Arabia shows little tolerance for non-Wahhabi Sunnis and Shiites. In addition, a prominent Iraqi Shiite cleric who died along with more than 100 others in the bombing, Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim, had been cooperating with the American occupation force. Extremists had threatened Arabs and Muslims who worked with the Americans.

U.S. officials have said several foreign fighters have been apprehended by U.S. troops in Baghdad and elsewhere in Iraq and that papers found with them indicate they came into Iraq from countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iran and Syria. The officials said U.S. investigators still were trying to determine their identities, origins and travel routes.

Al-Otaibi, the Saudi expert on extremists, said he doesn't believe there are more than 200 Saudis fighting in Iraq, but that their devotion to their cause makes them a potent force.

In past months, a number of Saudi fighters in Iraq reportedly have called friends back home and told them about successful operations in an effort to recruit more fighters.

If Saudis are being pulled toward Iraq out of religious fervor, they also may be pushed there by their government's new policy of zero tolerance for militancy. Since May 12 suicide bombings in the capital killed 26 foreigners and Saudis and nine Saudi attackers, Saudi Arabia has launched a major crackdown, setting up roadblocks in all the country's major cities. More than 200 al-Qaida-linked terrorists have been arrested and more than a dozen killed in shoot-outs with security forces and an arsenal of weapons has been unearthed in Saudi Arabia.

Slipping across the border into Iraq offers an escape from the crackdown as well as a chance to fight the United States, but it is done quietly.

"American pressure on the kingdom and the fact that Saudi Arabia itself has suffered from militants has made it difficult for people to openly support the resistance in Iraq," said Al-Riyadh journalist Mansour al-Nogaidan.

He said clerics and mainstream Saudi newspapers earlier had been more openly supportive of Saudis fighting in Iraq. Still, he said, the presence of Saudi fighters in Iraq is well-known among most Saudis.

"Friends have told me about relatives fighting in Iraq," he said, adding he'd read a web site notice last week about a young Saudi killed fighting in Iraq.

Khalid al-Ghannami, a writer and columnist specializing in extremists and Islamic issues, said two of his neighbors went to fight in Iraq and the younger brother, a teenager, was killed there and eulogized on a web site as a martyr.

He said the borders between Saudi Arabia and Iraq were porous and long. Shepherds move freely between the two countries and volunteer fighters can do the same, he said.

Straw backing stronger U.N. military mandate

The Associated Press

LONDON — Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said Sunday he was hopeful of gaining support within the United Nations for a new resolution strengthening the international body's military and political mandate in Iraq.

Straw said the security situation in Iraq had deteriorated in the past month and new action was needed to cope with the threat of terrorism there.

"I've been working over the last two weeks with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell on the drafting of a new resolution which will aim to deepen and strengthen the United Nations mandate in Iraq for the political process but also for the military presence," Straw told the British Broadcasting Corp. television program "Breakfast with Frost."

Asked about expected opposition to the plan from countries such as Russia, Germany and France, Straw remained positive.

"There is a mood in the international community by which we will be able to achieve a consensus within the United Nations," he said. "I'm not absolutely certain about this but bear in mind that we've already had two U.N. Security Council resolutions agreed unanimously since the fall of the Saddam regime in the middle of April, so I think we will be able to get a consensus."

Straw said that August had been a very bad month for security in Iraq after initial improvements immediately after the war.

"It has got bad, the situation. ... Up to the middle of this month, the attacks were against U.S., U.K. security forces. Now what we see is that these terrorists are attacking the people of Iraq and they are attacking the United Nations, the international community," he said.

There has been a spate of bombings in Iraq in recent weeks, including the Najaf mosque attack that killed 85 people on Friday, and the Aug. 19 truck bombing at the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad, which killed 23 people.

Tactical incompetence of Saddam, Qusai disabled military, Iraqi officers contend

BY DAVID ZUCCHINO

Los Angeles Times

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Saddam Hussein and his son Qusai crippled the Iraqi military through a multitude of erratic orders and strategic miscalculations, while its fighting units barely communicated with one another and were paralyzed from lack of direction, according to detailed interviews with more than a dozen former Iraqi commanders and servicemen.

These woes — compounded by incompetence, poor preparation, craven leadership and wholesale desertions of thousands of soldiers unwilling to die for Saddam — contributed to the Iraqi military's quick and stunning collapse against invading U.S. forces in early April, the former fighters said.

Typical of the erratic orders were those imposed by Qusai upon a Republican Guard unit outside Baghdad. As American forces approached the city in late March, the unit received a new order every morning to reposition its tanks. Each order contradicted the one before, infuriating local commanders, Col. Raed Faik recalled.

But the orders had to be obeyed. They arrived by courier on slips of paper signed by Qusai, Saddam's younger son and commander of the Republican Guard.

Every time the tanks were moved from their bunkers, Faik said, a few more were exposed and destroyed by coalition air power. Meanwhile, he said, another commander was ordered to disable all three dozen of his tanks for fear they would be captured and used by Kurdish militias hundreds of miles north.

"These were the orders of an imbecile. Qusai was like a teenager playing a video war game," Faik, 33, said in the cool reception room of his Baghdad home, gesturing to his teenage son banging away on a computer combat game.

In the end, Saddam and Qusai were reduced to issuing commands from a

convoy of civilian vehicles that retreated as U.S. tanks rolled into the capital, the former fighters said. Iraqi troops were largely without radios and maps. Field commanders dropped their weapons and fled. And soldiers waited in bunkers for orders that never arrived — in many cases, unaware even that Baghdad had been invaded, the fighters said.

Before the invasion, Saddam Hussein's forces had been expected to put up a fierce defense of Baghdad, and U.S. officials warned that the Iraqis might even use chemical or biological weapons. Instead, the former Iraqi fighters said, orders to use chemical or biological weapons were never given because no such weapons existed.

Iraqi forces, who did not anticipate Americans would use tanks in urban combat inside the capital city, were largely unprepared for the ensuing armored onslaught. An eventual guerrilla war — now being waged by remnants of Iraqi forces and other Arab fighters — wasn't planned for because Saddam didn't think it would be necessary, the former Iraqi servicemen said.

And tactics that could have slowed U.S. forces, such as the mining of roads leading into Baghdad, were not employed because Saddam was confident his forces would repel the Americans.

"We should have mined the roads and bridges. We should have planned a guerrilla war," said retired Gen. Ahmed Rahal, 51. "We were crippled by a lack of imagination."

The command structure was confused from the start. Saddam was wary of concentrating power in one military force in case it might launch a coup, so he had created a number of jealous rival fighting groups — including the Republican Guard, Special Republican Guard and the Fedayeen Saddam militia — that never spoke to one another.

While the elite units were well armed and well paid, many regular army infantrymen were poorly paid and given just a single magazine of ammunition, former soldiers said. Regular army

commanders schemed to undermine elite units, hoarding information and avoiding confrontations with U.S. forces. And many units were segregated by tribe or ethnic group, inhibiting coordination.

"We were like 10 different armies fighting their own private wars," said Nabil Qaisy, 31, a Baath Party militiaman who said he spent the battle cowering in a north Baghdad bunker, unaware that combat was raging in the city center a few miles away.

The military's limited communications — only special units received reliable phones or radios — fell apart early on, the soldiers said. Cut off and confused, commanders resorted to sending out soldiers in vehicles to scavenge scraps of information — usually from other hopelessly uninformed units. One officer's car was crushed by an American tank on such a mission, one commander said.

The entire military was plunged into chaos.

Just before the U.S. assault, soldiers said, some officers ordered military vehicles spray-painted in civilian colors, intending to drive them home for personal use after deserting. A Republican Guard unit fleeing the city descended on a regular army camp and stole its vehicles, they said.

And a Republican Guard unit armed only with automatic rifles was sent to confront U.S. tanks and "was absolutely slaughtered," Col. Faik said.

After U.S. tanks smashed through southwest Baghdad on April 5, killing nearly 1,000 Iraqi soldiers according to U.S. commanders, Fedayeen fighters claimed victory and celebrated downtown, displaying charred corpses they claimed were bodies of U.S. soldiers, Faik said.

"I looked closer and saw they were Republican Guards, still in their uniforms with insignia," Faik said. "I spent 12 years in the Republican Guards. I know the difference between a Republican Guard soldier and an American soldier. I was appalled."

Times staff writer Alissa J. Rubin contributed to this report.

After losing 17 GIs in Iraq since war's end, Fort Carson families live on edge

BY COLLEEN SLEVIN

The Associated Press

FORT CARSON, Colo. — When Amy West gave birth six weeks ago, she glanced at the clock, did the math and thought about how her husband was in the middle of his day in Iraq.

Her fears for Army Capt. Mike West's safety have intensified as casualties from Fort Carson troops build. Since major combat ended May 1, 17 Fort Carson soldiers have been killed in attacks and accidents in Iraq.

West, the 29-year-old mother of baby Grace and 20-month-old Drew, tries not to dwell on it.

"Mike doesn't come home every night. That's his job. As hard as it is, you just have to keep going," she said.

The close-knit community south of Colorado Springs has sent 12,000 men and women to Iraq, the post's largest deployment since World War II. Most deployed in April as the military switched its focus to peacekeeping, and guerrilla attacks on soldiers escalated.

The flow of bad news into Fort Carson over the past few months has many of the soldiers' family members jumping whenever telephone calls come at odd hours or there is a knock at the door.

The Department of Defense lists 144 U.S. soldier deaths in Iraq since fight-

ing ended, more than matching the 138 U.S. deaths during the war itself. Fort Carson has been hit particularly hard.

The Rev. James Ellison, a chaplain for the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, has organized 10 funerals and memorial services for 13 Fort Carson soldiers. He said he sees the fear in faces of neighbors when he shows up in dress uniform to tell relatives about a soldier's death.

"They know what to do now, who to call and that's kind of sad isn't it?" he said.

When speaking at spouse support groups, Ellison said the crowd falls silent when a cell phone rings.

While worrying about their soldiers, relatives also continue to deal with the crises that disrupt lives everywhere, from cancer striking a soldier's daughter to divorce.

At the post, the war is hard to escape. Families put service star flag stickers on their cars with a star for each loved one serving in Iraq. One car had a painted yellow ribbon and the message: "Pray 4 a Safe Return."

Families say they have a love-hate relationship with the news, knowing that each report of an attack or accident will bring worry until more details emerge about where and how it occurred.

Large televisions over the post dining hall's salad bar and in the lobby of the family support center are tuned to

24-hour cable news programs. A sports bar on post reserves at least one of its screens for news.

Diane Campbell, whose husband, Russell, returned this month from Iraq, remembers bursting into tears when she drove past Soldiers Memorial Chapel in May and saw the pregnant widow of Pfc. Jesse A. Givens, the first Fort Carson soldier to die in Iraq.

She said just being near other spouses helped sustain her. "I know when people say, 'How are you doing?' they really mean it," she said.

Like Campbell, Amy West finds strength in what she sees as her husband's mission of trying to bring freedom to the Iraqi people.

But she lives off post and misses the support that Campbell enjoyed.

Not all her neighbors know her husband is in Iraq even though she is the only one outside weeding or mowing the lawn, Drew pushing a miniature mower behind her.

The Army discourages families from advertising that their spouses are away, fearing they will be targeted by scam artists or other criminals. Recently, men posing as casualty notification officers went to the homes of five families, offering information about their loved ones in exchange for money, Army officials have said.

West would rather show her support for the troops.

"If I had my way, this place would be decked in yellow," she said.

Foundation gives bonds to children of slain troops

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation has donated millions of dollars in bonds to children whose parents died in the line of duty, and this war on terrorism is no exception, except that the foundation is awarding bonds across services and to children of coalition forces.

"We said we were going to be doing this for the shooting part of the war, but we've had so many donations come in, we're going to keep it going until the money is gone," said Peter Haas, president and one of four founders of the New York-based foundation.

"Shooting part," refers to the combat phase of the war in Iraq between March to May. Since President Bush declared an end to major combat operations on May 1, 66 American troops have been killed in hostile incidents. During the combat phase, 112 troops were killed in action and another 26 died in accidents. Since the war began March 19, 178 Americans have been killed in action and 104 in non-hostile incidents. Eight-six troops and CIA members have died in Afghanistan and the Philippines related to Operation Enduring Freedom.

Stemming from deaths related to operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Philippines, the foundation awarded \$2.1 million in \$40,000 bonds to the children of killed Marines, \$1.1 million to children of airmen and \$600,000 to children of sailors. The foundation still is calculating bonds to be paid to children of soldiers, but Haas estimated it would be more than \$6 million.

"We're still working out the particulars on how to give bonds to the families of British troops and others," he said. "They will receive the bonds in pounds, but it will be the equivalent of 40,000 U.S. dollars."

The foundation got its start in 1985 to take care of children of Marines and federal law enforcement personnel. "Widows and widowers move quickly through our system. The way it is in our country, once the flag is presented at the grave on behalf of the president, that could be the last time they have any contact with us. We wanted to do something and do something now so that the widow or widower would have something in their possession that they could use to plan for the future," said Haas, who served as a Marine from 1945 to 1958 and is a retired stockbroker.

The bonds can be cashed out when the child turns 19, and though the foundation hopes he or she will use it toward education, the cash can be used for any purpose. Foundation bonds have ranged from \$10,000 to the current \$40,000.

The foundation has paid out bonds to children whose parents were killed in the Beirut bombing in 1983; the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and children of the astronauts killed when the Space Shuttle Columbia exploded in February, he said.

Organizers and board members serve on a volunteer basis so that 100 percent of donations go toward buying the bonds, Haas said.

Donations can be made through the Combined Federal Campaign, selection 2134; via Internet at www.mc-lef.org; or by mailing contributions to P.O. Box 37, Mountain Lakes, N.J. 07046. E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@stripes.osd.mil

Pilots killed in Iraq laid to rest in joint burial

BY JOHN F. KELLY

The Washington Post

Bill Watkins was Eric Das' boss. Das' wife, Nicole, worked for Bill's wife, Melissa. Things don't get much closer in the tightly knit world of Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

On Friday at Arlington National Cemetery, the bonds joining the two families were made tighter still.

In a rare joint burial, the remains of Lt. Col. William R. "Salty" Watkins III and Capt. Eric B. "Boot" Das were laid to rest in a single casket, in a single grave.

The pair were killed April 7 when their F-15E Strike Eagle aircraft went down in Iraq.

Both were members of the 333rd Fighter Squadron at North Carolina's Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, where their wives serve as intelligence officers.

Das and Watkins are the 27th and 28th casualties of the Iraq war to be buried at Arlington. The morning rain had stopped Friday by the time their casket — on a caisson pulled by six gray horses — arrived at the grave site. The sun had burned a hole in the clouds and the white headstones of Section 60 cast knife-edge shadows on the grass.

The two were prototypical fighter pilots, those who knew them said — born leaders who seemed to succeed in everything they did.

Their nicknames hinted at their personalities: "Salty," for the yarns that the sailboat-loving Watkins spun; "Boot," a pun on the German subma-

rine movie "Das Boot" that paid homage to the cowboy boots that Das, a Texan, wore when country dancing.

Watkins, 37, of Danville, Va., knew from a young age that he wanted to be involved with airplanes, said his uncle, Jeff Haley, in an interview this week.

"Not a lot of people can say they set their sights at a young age and accomplished it," Haley, 43, said. "He did exactly what he wanted to do."

Watkins graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1989. Although less-than-perfect eyesight kept him from a pilot's seat in the Navy, he became a bombardier/navigator on the A-6E Intruder and radar intercept officer on the F-14 Tomcat. He also earned a private pilot's license.

He switched services in 2001, transferring to the Air Force to be nearer to his wife, Air Force Maj. Melissa Watkins.

Watkins was a Jimmy Buffett fan who, in true Parrothead fashion, donned Hawaiian shirts for concerts.

"He was like a big kid in a lot of ways," his brother, Barksdale Watkins, 29, said this week.

Watkins left behind a 15-month-old son, William Tucker, and a daughter, Mary Allison, who was born July 31.

Das, 30, was from Amarillo, Texas, the son of Christian missionaries whose work took them around the world. When he was in elementary school, the family lived in Colorado, near the Air Force Academy. Das would watch the academy's glider-piloting students as they were borne aloft on updrafts of warm air.

"That of course piqued his interest," his mother, Rosalie Das, 62, said this week. He graduated from the academy

in 1995. He met his future wife while they were stationed in Alaska, and proposed to her on a glacier.

At Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, N.C., Watkins and Das were involved in training colleagues on the F-15E. When Das' wife, Capt. Nicole Das, was deployed to Qatar in January, he volunteered to be among the pilots augmenting the F-15E squadron there.

"I was ecstatic that Eric was coming out to see me and to do what he was trained to do," Nicole, 26, said.

Das and Watkins were bombing enemy positions in Tikrit when their F-15E went down. An Air Force spokesman could not say Friday exactly why the plane crashed. He characterized it as a "combat loss."

Some of the officers' remains were buried in May — Das in Colorado and Watkins in a family plot in South Boston, Va. More remains were recovered later, a not-uncommon occurrence when a supersonic jet crashes in a combat zone, officials said.

The families decided to have the new remains buried at Arlington.

At Friday's ceremony, the chaplain, Capt. John Kenyon, read from "High Flight," a poem hung in the dens of Air Force families the world over.

"Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth," it begins, "and danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings."

After Gen. John Jumper, Air Force chief of staff, presented boxes bearing folded American flags to Das' and Watkins' widows, F-15Es from Seymour Johnson swept overhead in a "missing man" formation. As they flew off to the west, the roar of their engines slowly faded, replaced by the scratch of cicadas and the sound of the wind in the trees.

USS Enterprise deployment is a glimpse of the future

BY RICK ROGERS

Newport News (Va.)
Daily Press

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — The departure of the USS Enterprise Strike Group Thursday was more than just the first deployment after the Iraqi War. It's a possible preview of the way the Navy will do business for the foreseeable future.

The strike group is composed of five ships instead of the typical 10 and 6,500 sailors instead of roughly 13,000. The deployment length is also changing.

For decades, you could almost set your calendar by the deployments.

Six months at sea give or take a day were the order of the day.

There are no promises this time around.

The sailors of the Enterprise — which was built in Newport News, Va. — USS Philippine Sea, USS Gettysburg and USS Detroit could be gone as little as three months or as long as eight.

In a twist, the Argentinean destroyer ARA Sarandi will be the first non-NATO ship deployed with a carrier strike group.

With the possible exception of the Sarandi, the changes are meant to throw adversaries off by adding elements of flexibility and surprise in naval deployments, and they signal the most significant revamping of carrier operations since the late 1940s, said Robert Work, a senior defense analyst at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.

Reasons for the changes can be traced to the war with Iraq. With resources deployed in the Middle East, the military found itself a little undermanned when North Korea started flashing its emerging nuclear arsenal.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told the services to devise plans to keep the military from getting caught thin again.

The new carrier strike group design is part of the Navy's response.

It emphasizes smaller combat elements that can be quickly fitted together to form more powerful ones.

That in turn is part of U.S. strategy that focuses on:

- homeland security;
- forward deployment in Europe, the Persian Gulf, East Asia (China) and Northeast Asia (North Korea);

■ and being able to act militarily in two of these regions simultaneously, decisively in one of them.

The overarching defense strategy, Work said, requires the military to cover more areas. Without adding service members and equipment, that means realigning forces already at hand.

To create more forces, the Navy is dividing its 12 carrier battle groups and seven surface action groups into 37 independent strike groups that can be combined in many different ways.

When the Enterprise and its escorts left Hampton Roads — first to train and then to deploy — it began to test a vital part of that concept.

"I think it is an extremely good organizational framework," Work said of the Navy plan. "It allows combat power to be dispersed over more areas with the same number of forces."

"What appears to be smaller groups is really a more efficient way of using assets. What you are going to have are these small strike groups located all over the world. They would come together if something big happened. Think of them as Lego blocks. If you need a more powerful force, you just stick them together."

Marine general censured for role in promotion flap

BY BRADLEY GRAHAM

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The general who commanded U.S. Marines in the Iraq war received a letter of censure this week for "lack of judgment" in insisting last year that a colonel wear a brigadier general's star even though the Senate had not approved the colonel's promotion, the Marine Corps announced Friday.

The incident involved a decision by Lt. Gen. Earl Hailston to have Col. Craig Boddington don a single star in April last year to take command of an important military unit in Kuwait. While Boddington had been nominated a year before to become a general, the nomination had yet to be confirmed — and ended up delayed indefinitely.

Still, Boddington wore the star for nine months before the Pentagon's inspector general, acting on a tip, launched an investigation.

Hailston announced his retirement this summer and stepped down in July as commander of Marine forces in the Central Command region and the Pacific. In a letter reprimanding him, the Na-

vy's top civilian leader, acting Navy Secretary Hansford Johnson, stressed the importance of abiding by military rules governing promotions.

But Johnson took no disciplinary action against the Marine commandant, Gen. Michael Hagee, who also was involved tangentially in the episode. Instead, in a separate letter, Johnson expressed confidence in Hagee and said he is counting on the commandant, who took over the top Marine job in January, to ensure "adherence to law and policy."

The reason for the Senate's delay in approving Boddington's promotion could not immediately be learned. But the episode highlights the delays that frequently occur between the time an officer is nominated for promotion and the time the Senate grants approval.

According to a timeline provided by Navy and Marine Corps officials, Boddington, a reservist, was selected to become a brigadier general in April 2001. He took charge in November 2001 of a key group at Camp Pendleton, Calif., under Hagee's command.

In March 2002, Boddington was ordered to active duty and assigned to command a joint task force in Kuwait coordinating the military's response to

any potential attack by Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

Given the job's importance, Hailston directed Hagee to tell Boddington to arrive in Kuwait with his general's star on, even though the Senate had yet to confirm the nomination.

When Boddington arrived still wearing a colonel's rank, Hailston reacted with "disappointment," according to Johnson's letter, and personally officiated at an impromptu "frocking ceremony" pinning on the general's insignia. At the time, Hailston expected Senate approval was "imminent," Johnson said, but was subsequently informed that the Senate had no intention of granting approval for a year or more.

"It is clear to me that you acted based upon your assessment of the importance of the billet occupied by Colonel Boddington and not for anyone's personal gain or glory," Johnson wrote in his Aug. 25 letter. "Nevertheless, I am disappointed by your actions and the lack of judgment you demonstrated in this instance."

Hailston, in a brief statement, accepted full responsibility.

Boddington, still a colonel, returned to Camp Pendleton and to reserve status early this year.

Additionally, deployed or disconnected commands may request CDs containing several servicemembers' personnel files, according to Navy information released Saturday.

Documents on the CDs are secured by an "Official Record Copy" watermark — an electronic verification of their authenticity — and can be printed if desired. The CDs also contain links to frequently asked questions and other resources, the Navy said.

The CDs are ordered the same way as microfiche. The CDs can be obtained via mail or FAX, or by visiting the record review room, Wood Hall, Bldg #769, Naval Personnel Command, Millington, Tenn.

The CDs also may be ordered via the Internet; those CDs will be sent to official command addresses. To order online, go to www.bupers.navy.mil, click on the BUPERS Access link and log in. Under "Programs," users will find a link to order the records.

Sailors who want their CD be sent to other than a command address should mail a written request to Navy Personnel Command, PERS-313C REC, 5720 Integrity Drive, Millington, Tenn. 38055-3130. Or they may fax a request to (901) 874-2664 or DSN 882-2664.

For more information, call 1-866-827-5572.

From staff and wire reports

Who will foot the bill?

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Quick! How much of your monthly electric bill pays for firing up your coffee maker? Generally, 25 percent of what Americans pay powers up sockets in homes and businesses. About 10 percent is used to send electricity along high-voltage transmission lines. The bulk — 65 percent — goes to building, maintaining and operating the hulking plants that generate power from coal, natural gas, nuclear fission or water.

Those utility bills may increase now that the nation's biggest blackout has fueled arguments that the creaky electrical maze needs a \$50 billion to \$60 billion fix.

"It's the old trickle-down theory," said Robert Tongren, president of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, who also is Ohio's chief consumer representative.

"Everything that we pay for is a result of the costs that are incurred in creating and delivering the good or service."

No one knows yet if a better transmission system could have stymied the Aug. 14 outage that investigators suspect began in Ohio and spread from Michigan to New York and into Canada, affecting 50 million people. But power companies say the overburdened lines failed after electric surges exceeded emergency levels before the crash.

If more power lines are needed, utilities likely will charge consumers higher rates to offset expenses of modernizing the sprawling and antiquated grid, analysts say.

Opinions vary on the cost of making the increasingly interconnected grid that crisscrosses America more reliable. Many experts agree, though, that it will take more than the \$3 billion a year utilities now pour into lines, towers and substations.

"We need to be spending \$5 billion to \$6 billion a year. If we were doing that, we would not have as much congestion on the system as we do today," said David Owens, the executive vice president of the Edison Electric Institute, an industry trade group.

Fisherman bit by shark

SURFSIDE BEACH, Texas — It won't be hard for Saul Gonzalez to describe how big the fish was.

The Houston man has bite marks from the four foot long bull shark on his arm as proof.

Alfonso Meneses, who was fishing with Gonzalez Friday, said his friend was trying to cut the line to let the shark go, but had brought it in, rather than leaving it in the water.

While a friend got a knife to cut the line, Gonzalez brought the shark in, said Frank Scott, a Bridge Harbor resident at the bait shop.

"Apparently, the guy swung the fish onboard, grabbed it and the fish grabbed back," Scott said in The Brazosport Facts on Saturday.

Gonzalez went to Houston's Memorial Hermann Hospital by LifeFlight helicopter. He was in good condition Friday afternoon, and hospital officials said he would likely be released by the end of the day.

Freeport police received a 911 call from the boat, asking that an ambulance meet it at the boat ramp.

"By the time we got back, you could tell he lost so much blood his whole attitude changed," Meneses said.

Gonzalez went to Houston's Memorial Hermann Hospital by LifeFlight helicopter. He was in good condition Friday afternoon, and hospital officials said he would likely be released by the end of the day.

"He just happened to do the wrong thing at the wrong time, and once you get your arm in its mouth, even a small shark can hurt you bad," Scott said.

From The Associated Press

AF satellite launched

CAPE CANAVERAL AIR FORCE STATION, Fla. — A Boeing rocket roared from its seaside launch pad just before sunset Friday, carrying into orbit the last installment of the Air Force's state-of-the-art communications system.

The 6,025-pound Lockheed Martin-built satellite is the 14th in the Defense Satellite Communications System and will become one of five primary satellites that make up the constellation. The others perform a backup role.

The system, considered the backbone of military communications, provides secure voice and data communications, Air Force officials said in releases. It is used to relay messages between the White House, Department of Defense officials, battlefield commanders and diplomats, they said.

Military files will be available on CDs

Beginning in mid-September, all Navy active-duty and reserve servicemembers can order a copy of their official military personnel files from the Electronic Military Personnel Records System on compact disc instead of microfiche.

The CDs can be supplied for individual servicemembers.

Experts: NASA in need of radical overhaul

BY MARCIA DUNN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With NASA under orders to fix its safety culture in the wake of the Columbia tragedy, industrial psychologists and management wizards say extreme measures may be needed: a purge at the top, the return of Apollo-era decision-makers, more businesslike behavior, possibly even a new name.

"It's a bad enough problem that you start to wonder if they almost don't need to have their name changed, like WorldCom and MCI," said Jeffrey Sonnenfeld, associate dean for executive programs at the Yale School of Management.

"For sure, all the top brass at NASA should be reviewed."

The Columbia accident investigators are giving NASA months, if not years, to change the deeply rooted culture that led not only to the destruction of Columbia and the deaths of seven astronauts on Feb. 1, but to the loss of Challenger and seven astronauts 17 years earlier. In both cases, engineers were too afraid to speak out to managers about technical concerns, and managers driven by flight scheduling pressures made deadly decisions regarding foam and, in the case of Challenger, O-rings.

NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe promises to implement all 29 technical and organizational recommendations issued by the Columbia Accident Invest-

tigation Board last Tuesday and insists culture changes will begin at the top with him and his staff.

Deborah Lipman, Slobodnik, co-founder and managing partner of Options for Change in Reading, Mass., thinks O'Keefe is part of the problem. She would immediately replace him and at least half his lieutenants with people "who really get it and who really are modeling by example."

"He's not part of a new moving-forward vision of safety and how things are going to operate, he's really looking at cost cutting, and cost cutting was part of the old regime," Slobodnik said.

"Can people change 180 degrees? Sure, I guess I believe that, but I think it's going way against any sort of odds."

What's urgently needed, she said, is "a new sheriff in town" — someone like retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark, a possible Democratic presidential contender, or Jack Welch, General Electric's former chief executive officer. The next six months are critical if NASA is to overhaul its culture, she noted.

Boston College sociologist Diane Vaughan, author of the 1996 book "The Challenger Launch Decision," is also pessimistic but believes ditching O'Keefe at this point would be a mistake.

"If you replace the leader, it gives the idea that you change the cast of characters, you've fixed the system, and it obscures all the problems in the system and you don't really want to go there this time," Vaughan said. "You really want the system to be fixed."

Strange bank robbery case

ERIE, Pa. — A pizza delivery man told police he had been forced to rob a bank and asked authorities to help him minutes before a bomb strapped to his chest exploded and killed him.

On Saturday, federal agents and police in Pennsylvania were trying to solve the bizarre case of 46-year-old Brian Douglas Wells, who left to deliver a pizza to a mysterious address in a remote area about an hour before he turned up at the bank with a bomb strapped to his body.

No one else was hurt in Thursday's explosion, which happened in front of law enforcement officers as they waited for a bomb squad to arrive.

WJET-TV of Erie captured audio and video from Wells as he sat handcuffed in front of a state police cruiser. "Why is nobody trying to come get this thing off me?" he asked.

A state police spokesman confirmed Friday night that Wells had made a number of statements, including that he had been forced to rob the bank.

The tape shows Wells telling authorities someone had started a timer on his bomb under his T-shirt, and that there was little time left.

"It's going to go off," Wells said. "I'm not lying." Erie Chief Deputy Coroner Korac Timon said Saturday the bomb appeared to have hung from Wells' neck, and that he had been told it was of a "very sophisticated construction."

FBI Special Agent Bob Rudge called the case unusual, noting that while bank robbers sometimes claim to have a bomb, few actually do.

While no one has been arrested or identified as a suspect, Rudge said the investigation was "going extremely well." Wells' death was being investigated as a homicide and investigators were looking into Wells' background.

Transfusion mixup kills woman

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — A woman who swapped beds with another patient in their hospital room so she could be nearer the window died after receiving the wrong type of blood during surgery.

In preparation for the surgery last month, a technician at Inova Fairfax Hospital mistakenly took a blood sample from the woman's roommate, hospital officials said.

Hospital spokeswoman Beth Visioli said Friday the woman had switched beds, but the death was the result of human error by a hospital employee. The technician did not follow the hospital's established procedures for identifying patients, which requires examining each patient's wristband and having the patient state his or her name.

"The technician doesn't recall whether she asked the patient her name or not or whether she checked the armband," Russell Seneca, chairman of surgery at the hospital, said in an interview with The Washington Post. "I'm not certain what transpired between the technician and the patient whose blood was drawn."

The hospital now requires a second person to accompany a technician when blood is drawn as a safeguard against misidentification.

The patient was hospitalized for surgery to remove an abscess in her colon.

During the surgery, the woman was given two pints of the wrong blood. It became clear near the completion of the surgery that her blood was not clotting properly, Seneca said. Later, in the recovery room, the patient suffered a reaction to the transfused blood, which brought about kidney failure.

The technician, described as an exemplary employee, was so distraught that she resigned.

Fake lifesaving drug sentences

MIAMI — Two men were sentenced to prison or house arrest Friday for helping distribute vials of bac-

teria-tainted water passed off as the lifesaving medicine Procrit.

William Chavez, 39, was sentenced to three months in prison for brokering sales of unlicensed drugs to undercover Food and Drug Administration agents.

Duvel Gonzalez, 31, was sentenced to six months of house arrest for attending one of the sales and storing boxes of the fake drugs in exchange for \$3,000.

Both men pleaded guilty in June.

The investigation began in April 2002, when manufacturer Amgen Inc. received a tip that a man in Miami named William Chavez was involved in a counterfeiting ring.

Separately, the agency warned health workers, and a distributor found some fake Procrit before it reached pharmacies. Procrit is prescribed to people with HIV and cancer patients with anemia.

Chavez was arrested in February after he tried to sell an FDA agent the fake drug for \$36,500. An FDA lab had determined after an earlier sale that the vials contained bacteria-laced tap water.

He agreed to cooperate and led the agents to alleged ringleader Eddy Gorrin. Agents later arrested Gonzalez.

Gorrin, who is scheduled to be sentenced next week, has admitted making the counterfeit Procrit, complete with imitation holographic safety seals, lot numbers and stamps almost identical to those on the real thing.

Officials said none of the fake drugs ever reached patients.

Disabled rape victim gives birth

ORLANDO, Fla. — A mentally disabled rape victim whose pregnancy became the center of a court battle over whether a guardian can be appointed for a fetus has given birth.

The girl, for now known as "Baby Girl S," was born by Caesarean section Saturday and placed in the temporary custody of the state Department of Children & Families.

She appeared healthy, though it likely will be months before doctors know if she has any disabilities, Patti Riley Jarrell, the mother's guardian, said.

The case drew national attention after Gov. Jeb Bush asked the courts to appoint a guardian for the fetus, an unusual move that sparked a debate over treatment of the developmentally disabled and fetal rights.

The child's 23-year-old mother, known as court records as J.D.S., has the mental ability of a preschooler and has been living in group homes since she was a child. After she was raped in a group home in Orlando, the case for a guardian arose because she was unable to make decisions for herself.

A judge appointed Jarrell as a caretaker for the rape victim but declined to appoint a guardian for J.D.S.'s unborn child, following the precedent of a Florida Supreme Court decision in 1989 that appointing a guardian for a fetus was "clearly improper."

Jennifer Wixtrom, an Orlando woman who had petitioned the court with the Bush administration's support to be the fetal guardian, appealed to the 5th District Court of Appeal, which has not ruled.

After the child's birth Saturday, Circuit Judge Jose Rodriguez granted emergency temporary custody of the infant to the state Department of Children & Families. State officials and J.D.S.'s legal guardian agreed that the newborn would be at risk if she were allowed to remain with her biological mother.

Couple rescued after days in cave

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. — A man and a woman are recovering from dehydration after nearly spending nearly five days lost in a cave.

John Hadar and Sherry DeCrow were rescued Friday by family and friends, who criticized Garfield County sheriff's deputies for delaying their search efforts.

Sgt. Ray Hensley said investigators followed proper procedures.

Hadar and DeCrow went into Hubbards Cave in Glenwood Canyon on the afternoon of Aug. 24 with flashlights but no food or water, said DeCrow's daughter, Ramiah DeCrow.

Their flashlight batteries died and the pair couldn't find their way out, the daughter said. Family members filed a missing person report Tuesday.

On Thursday, a family friend who is a pilot spotted the pair's car from the air, Ramiah DeCrow said.

Ramiah DeCrow said she and her brother wanted to hike to the cave but sheriff's deputies blocked the trail, telling them it was considered a crime scene.

"John wasn't going to make it through [Friday] night if we hadn't gone up there," Ramiah DeCrow said Saturday. "My mom probably wouldn't have made it through today."

W.Va. case brings in 93 others

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Stepped-up patrols since three fatal sniper-style shootings have not turned up any suspects but have produced a side benefit: 93 arrests in other cases, the chief sheriff's deputy said Saturday.

Nearly all the arrests since Aug. 14 came in the eastern end of Kanawha County, where the most recent shootings took place, Chief Sheriff's Deputy Phil Morris said. He said the number of arrests is unusual for the area.

A city, county and federal task force has received more than 1,000 leads since three people were killed by a .22-caliber rifle outside convenience stores in separate shootings over a four-day period.

Morris credited aggressive patrolling for arrests made since the shootings, which include 16 for simple assault, four for breaking and entering, four for drug violations, two for auto theft, one for forcible rape and one for arson.

Tribute to Harley-Davidson's 100th

MILWAUKEE — Ten thousand Harley-Davidsons, their riders wearing anything from Hog masks and feather boas to black leather, roared through the city Saturday on an 8-mile parade celebrating the company's 100th anniversary.

The event was as much a tapestry of red, white and blue as the motorcycle icon's signature orange and black. One Harley rider festooned his bike with two dozen American flags.

Willie G. Davidson, a grandson of Harley-Davidson's co-founder, and his wife, Nancy, led the parade, followed by riders on bikes toting large Harley flags representing riders' clubs from all over the world.

"It just shows the diversity of people, how they can get together for a celebration like the Harley-Davidson anniversary," said Bob Boyd, 67, who rode his 2003 Dyna Wide Glide Harley from his farm in London, Ontario. "This Canadian feels part of the American spirit. We're family."

Some of the motorcyclists were picked to participate in the parade because they had raised at least \$5,300 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Harley has a 23-year history with the association and hoped to raise more than \$5 million for the group during the Labor Day weekend.

The parade was one of the highlights of Harley's four-day anniversary celebration, which also includes motorcycle exhibits, memorabilia sales and live entertainment centered along Lake Michigan's shoreline.

As spectators in T-shirts and shorts mingled with those in denim and leather, at least one neighbor worried about the noise Saturday. The Milwaukee County Zoo took precautions to protect its more than 2,000 animals from the roar in the parking lot just outside, where the parade began, keeping many of the animals inside until the riders were gone.

From wire reports

French minister: Heat toll will rise

PARIS — France's health minister said in an interview that was expected to be published Sunday that people have not stopped dying from the August heat wave that seared France and he predicted the death toll will climb toward 12,000.

But Jean-Francois Mattei resisted calls for his resignation because of what critics say was a slow response to the crisis by the center-right government. "I have nothing to hide," Mattei said in an interview with the Sunday paper *Le Journal du Dimanche* made available Saturday evening. But Mattei refused to respond to direct criticism while investigations are in progress.

On Friday, Mattei announced a provisional death toll of 11,435.

"It is true that we will still have 'deferred' deaths," he said in the newspaper interview, "because organisms rendered fragile have used up all their strength to fight the extreme heat."

Mattei initially estimated that the heat wave killed 1,500-3,000 people. France's largest undertaker later estimated that 10,000 people died. Government officials at first said that could be right, but later suggested the number was inflated.

Friday's figure came from the Health Surveillance Institute, which calculated the toll for the government. Mattei noted that other studies to determine the heat-related death toll were continuing.

Iranian leader denies nuke ambitions

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's president said his country is not seeking to make atomic weapons, but he insisted Saturday it has a right to acquire nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Mohammad Khatami's comments followed a meeting in Tehran with European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana, who urged Iran to clear up questions about its nuclear program and allow unfettered inspections of related sites.

Mohammed ElBaradei, chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency, says traces of weapons-grade uranium have been found at a nuclear facility at Natanz in central Iran.

The United States accuses Iran of developing a clandestine nuclear weapons program in violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Iran insists its nuclear programs are for generating electricity.

"It's very important that Iran urgently clarifies the outstanding questions signaled in ElBaradei's report," Solana told reporters.

Indian police kill 2 terror suspects

NEW DELHI, India — Two suspected Islamic militants were killed in a gunbattle with police in the Indian capital on Saturday, hours after authorities elsewhere in the city seized a bag of explosives and a truck carrying weapons.

The gunfight occurred near a park in eastern New Delhi after police intercepted a car in which the two militants were traveling, said Neeraj Kumar, deputy commissioner of police.

Kumar said the two men belonged to Jaish-e-Mohammed, a Pakistan-based guerrilla group which he said has been plotting attacks in the capital.

He said the militants were en route to pick up weapons seized earlier Saturday from a truck in a New Delhi commercial district, but it was unclear if the bag of explosives discovered at the city's main train station was linked.

The identities of the suspected militants could not be independently verified.

World War I vet dies

HOBART, Australia — Frank MacDonald, Australia's oldest World War I veteran at 107 and a decorated war hero, was given a state funeral in his hometown in Tasmania state. MacDonald died last week from pneumonia.

"He was honest, fiercely independent, hard-working, frugal, opinionated and always a gentleman," MacDonald's biographer and friend, Barry Wood, told some 500 mourners at the service on Saturday.

One of 11 children, MacDonald served with the all-Tasmanian 40th Battalion Australian Infantry Force on the Western Front in 1917 and 1918.

He was awarded a medal for "conspicuous gallantry" in Belgium in 1917, and received the Legion of Honor from the French government in 1998.

MacDonald enlisted again in World War II, but was confined to a desk job because he was considered too old for active duty.

Tasmanian state leader Jim Bacon said MacDonald always recognized his great luck in surviving World War I.

"When asked how he survived the war his answer was typically forthright — by 'not getting hit by a lump of metal,'" he said.

In March, MacDonald said he believed war was stupid — but that Australia should support the United States in the conflict with Iraq. Australia sent about 2,000 military personnel to the Gulf to join the U.S.-led coalition.

MacDonald's death leaves just six known Australian World War I veterans, all of them over 100 years old.

From The Associated Press

9 dead as Russian sub sinks

Defense minister orders halt to towing derelict boats

BY JIM HEINTZ

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia's defense minister blamed the sinking of a derelict nuclear submarine on carelessness he described as characteristic of the country and on Sunday ordered a temporary halt to the towing of decommissioned subs.

The announcement raised the prospect of further delays in efforts to dispose of more than 100 rotting ships and their reactors, which have been a concern to environmentalists.

The K-159 submarine sank Saturday in the Barents Sea as it was being towed to an Arctic scrapyard where its reactors were to be removed and dismantled. Nine of the 10 sailors aboard died.

"There were definitely elements of this frivolous Russian reliance on chance, that everything will work out," Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov said from a ship monitoring search operations.

The sub went down in a storm, apparently after rough seas ripped off the pontoons that had been attached to it for towing.

Russian news reports cited unidentified Navy sources as suggesting the pontoons had been placed improperly and Ivanov said the submarine went to the bottom with its conning tower open.

"This confirms yet again the simple truth that all instructions and orders must be taken seriously," he said.

Later, after meeting with surviving sailor Lt. Maxim Tsubulsky and families of the dead sailors, he said "I have made a decision to ban the towing of such submarines to scrapyards in such a manner until further notice," according to the Interfax news agency.

However, Ivanov also said the men aboard the K-159 were not to blame.

"There are no complaints against you ... you were only a witness," Ivanov said in a televised meeting with Tsubulsky, who lay in a Northern Fleet hospital bed appearing healthy but exhausted.

Environmentalists have suggested officials were playing down the danger of contamination in the fish-rich waters, but Ivanov said radiation levels were normal.

He said the submarine will be raised from the 780-foot seabed but preparations could take several months.

Russia has decommissioned about 189 nuclear-powered submarines over the past 15 years but officials say 126 of those still are at docks with nuclear fuel in their reactors, creating international concern about leaks and the possibility of nuclear materials being obtained by other nations or terrorists.

It will cost an estimated \$3.9 billion to scrap all the subs, Russian officials say. Yet last year, the Russian government budgeted just \$70 million for improving nuclear safety in the country as a whole.

Environmentalist Alexander Nikitin, a former Russian navy captain, said Saturday that the risk of a leak from the sunken sub was high, and he criticized the Navy for choosing the "cheapest and worst option" by not removing the reactors before towing the boat to the dismantling point.

Ivanov's apparent frustration with procedure violations in the towing echoed the reaction of President Vladimir Putin, who said Saturday "the sea demands discipline."

The ship's reactors were reportedly shut down when it was taken out of service, but environmentalist Alexander Nikitin, a former Russian navy captain, said Saturday that the risk of a leak was high. He criticized the Navy for choosing the "cheapest and worst option" by not removing the reactors before towing the boat to the dismantling point.

The submarine sank a few miles northwest of Kildin Island off the Kola Peninsula, where Russia abuts Norway and Finland.

That is the same general area where the nuclear submarine Kursk, one of Russia's most sophisticated ships, sank almost exactly three years ago after being torn apart by two explosions while on maneuvers, killing all 118 aboard.

Turkey urges U.S. to help battle Kurdish rebels

The Associated Press

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey — Turkey's war with Kurdish rebels threatens to become a whole new headache for the U.S. military in Iraq.

The rebels, who are fighting for autonomy in southeastern Turkey and who have in the past fought for a Kurdish homeland straddling Turkey-Iraqi border, have spurned Turkey's offer of amnesty and are threatening to end their four-year unilateral cease-fire on Monday unless Turkish soldiers stop attacking them.

That may spell not only the possibility of instability in southeastern Turkey but also in northern Iraq, where an estimated 5,000 rebels who fled a Turkish onslaught in the 1990s are hiding out in mountain villages and caves.

Having supported the American war on terrorism, led the peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan and co-

operated in the hunt for al-Qaida operatives, Turkey feels entitled to U.S. support in fighting the rebels.

But the thinly stretched U.S. military would have a hard time against experienced fighters in remote mountain hideouts.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in a television interview Friday, said the United States owed Turkey help. "After Sept. 11, Turkey fulfilled its responsibilities in combating international terrorism ... now it is time for you to fulfill your responsibility," he said.

Erdogan said U.S. officials were responding with some measures, but he refused to elaborate.

Turkey is planning to raise the issue when Gen. James L. Jones, the head of U.S. forces in Europe, visits on Wednesday.

The United States may feel less obligated to Turkey, since Ankara refused to let U.S. invasion forces pass through the country en route to Iraq. But it also has a new reason to court Turkey: It's one of the countries being asked to send peacekeepers to Iraq.

S. Korea warns North not to increase tensions

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's foreign minister on Sunday warned North Korea not to take measures that would increase tensions over its suspected development of nuclear weapons, warning it would only further isolate the communist state.

"If [North Korea] takes measures that would further aggravate the situation, such as continuing developing its nuclear program, such actions would result in loss of trust from the other five countries and that would isolate [North Korea]," Yoon Young-kwan told KBS television in Seoul.

Meanwhile, North Korea on Sunday again demanded a nonaggression treaty with the United States, saying the standoff over its nuclear programs can never be resolved without it.

"Only when the U.S. makes a bold decision to make a switchover from its hostile policy toward [North Korea] and conclude a nonaggression treaty through

the six-way talks, is it possible to settle the issue," the North's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper said in a commentary carried by KCNA, the North's official news agency.

"If the U.S. does not want to do so, the nuclear issue will never be settled any time but result in irrevocable consequences," it said.

Washington insists that North Korea scrap its nuclear program, but the North says the United States must first provide security and aid guarantees.

The commentary came after North Korea angrily dismissed on Saturday the need for further discussions to end the nuclear standoff. The United States, Russia, China, Japan and the two Koreas gathered last week for three days of discussions about North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

"We have become much more sure that we have no other option but to increase our nuclear deterrent force for self-defense to protect our sovereignty," an unidentified North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman was quoted as saying by KCNA on Saturday.

Child fighters wait to return

BY EDWARD HARRIS

The Associated Press

MONROVIA, Liberia — Child soldiers cradle AK-47s at jungle checkpoints and on street corners, their gun muzzles cooled by a tenuous peace and their minds longing for rarities Liberia may never be able to provide them: intact families. Proper schooling.

Jobs. Absent those, Liberians and aid workers say, a generation of child soldiers who grew up with a gun in this thoroughly destroyed West African nation will remain simply idled, waiting for the next war.

"We want peace now, you know; we want to go back to school," said an 11-year-old rebel fighter called Dissident Baby.

"But I need a uniform in order to study," Dissident Baby said. "We need money for school fees."

Recruited as young as 6, child fighters have borne guns and rocket launchers in Liberia since this nation began its slide into civil conflict and ruin 14 years ago. Charles Taylor, ousted as president on Aug. 11, formalized the process with his Small Boys Units in the 1990s.

In the roughest of preliminary estimates, aid workers say 10,000-15,000 children remain in the ranks of both government and rebel sides.

The boys and girls await disarmament and return to society following an Aug. 18 peace accord and international intervention.

Their dreams are simple — but given the state of Liberia's destruction, almost unrealistic, currently.

"I want to learn to drive a heavy-duty yellow machine," said Otis, a preteen rebel fighter dazzled by the memory of the bright-yellow Caterpillar forklifts he saw when rebels held Monrovia's port during a June-July siege.

When insurgents withdrew from the harbor in August, the heavy-duty yellow machines were destroyed.

Also ruined or filled with refugees

Senegal soldiers arrive in Liberia

The Associated Press

MONROVIA, Liberia — A contingent of about 250 Senegalese soldiers arrived in Liberia, increasing the size of the West African peacekeeping force to more than 2,000.

West African leaders hope the force will eventually grow to 3,500 troops before they hand over control in coming months to a U.N. peacekeeping mission.

The peace force — with about 1,500 troops from Nigeria and 250 each from Mali and Senegal — has yet to deploy far from Liberia's peaceful capital, Monrovia. Rural Liberians are pleading for peacekeeper help, as widespread hunger and scattered clashes persist in the countryside despite the Aug. 18 peace accord.

The soldiers from Senegal arrived at Liberia's international airport

around sundown, said Odun Sanya, a spokesman for the peace force.

Ghana also is expected to send troops at some point, after which the West African force will begin spreading into the countryside.

The force is buttressed by about 30 U.S. Marines on the ground acting as liaisons and 250 aboard warships off Liberia.

The first troops landed earlier this month, establishing a zone of control between government forces and rebels who led a siege on the capital that killed more than 1,000 civilians. The siege culminated a three-year rebel campaign to oust former President Charles Taylor, who fled into exile in Nigeria on Aug. 11.

Taylor's vice president, Moses Blah, is scheduled in October to turn over power to a two-year interim government, which will arrange democratic elections.

are most of Liberia's schools, community centers, churches, playgrounds and other places children usually gather to learn and play.

Unemployment and illiteracy are at 80 percent among Liberia's 3.2 million people. Eighty-five percent live on less than \$1 a day.

The capital has been without electricity since 1992. Jobs — legitimate ones — are scarce.

"Disarming the kids isn't the problem. But then they face a society with this economy and poverty. I don't have a solution for that," said Bjorn Forsen of the U.N. Children's Fund, which is spearheading the disarmament and reintegration process.

"It's easy for them to decide to go back to fighting if the economy can't absorb them," UNICEF's David Moussa Ntambara said.

Preliminary estimates show disarm-

ing and reintegrating the children will cost \$5 million to \$6 million annually.

Many child soldiers have been abducted and won't be able to find uprooted families.

Others have been steeped in violent ideologies. Child soldiers happily offer visitors marijuana and crack cocaine, which they say makes them impervious to bullets.

UNICEF's Ntambara says experience in conflicts in Sierra Leone and Rwanda shows the process of reintegrating child soldiers is not an easy one.

But on a patch of scarlet dirt in Monrovia, a dozen Liberian youths playing soccer said unanimously that they will welcome the fighters back in their midst.

"They're not responsible for their actions. There are big people who influence them," said 19-year-old Emmanuel Wleh.

Arafat, Abbas discord deepens

The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Palestinian officials sought to mediate in a power struggle between Yasser Arafat and his prime minister Sunday, as Israel warned it will not deal with Arafat and will keep up strikes against militants unless the Palestinians disarm them.

Arafat and Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas have disagreed in the past week on key appointments and control of Palestinian security forces, which under the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan are required to dismantle militant groups.

"I think we must put an end to this internal crisis. We have to find a formula to organize relations between the presidency and [Abbas'] council. We face a serious challenge from the Israelis," Palestinian Information Minister Nabil Amr said at a news conference in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

A senior Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Israeli has told U.S. officials it will not deal with Arafat "or any marionette that he puts in place" of Abbas.

Arafat reluctantly appointed Abbas, his deputy in the PLO, to be the Palestinians' first prime minister in April under heavy pressure from Israel and the United States, which have tried to sideline Arafat and want an alternative leader.

Palestinian mediators were shuttling between Arafat and Abbas seeking to try to bridge their differences, officials said.

"Currently there are efforts being exerted by several officials and figures to bring both of them together and to sort out the problems, because the situation had reached a stage where it was not acceptable to anybody," said Ahmed Qureia, speaker of the Palestinian parliament. "It has its effects on the entire process, and that's why it is very dangerous."

The disputes persisted a day after Israel killed a leading Hamas militant and his assistant in a helicopter missile strike in the Gaza Strip on Saturday.

Aussie Scott grabs Deutsche Bank lead

NORTON, Mass. — Adam Scott played his final 10 holes at the Deutsche Bank Championship in 8-under par Saturday, topping it off with a 15-foot birdie putt for a 9-under 62 and a two-stroke lead over Vijay Singh.

The 23-year-old Aussie started his amazing run at the TPC of Boston with a 4-foot eagle on No. 18, and quickly surged past a foreign-dominated leader board to take the 36-hole lead for the first time in a PGA Tour event.

Sports in brief

Scott was at 11-under 131.

Singh birdied four straight holes early in his round to reach 10 under, bogeyed the par-3 11th and closed with seven straight pars for a 68.

Tiger Woods made three straight bogeys and was 3 over par — three shots over the cut line — when he responded with six birdies in nine holes to extend his streak to 111 consecutive cuts made on the PGA Tour. Woods finished with a 2-under 69 and was eight shots back.

Geoff Ogilvy of Australia had a 66 and was at 8-under 134 with Justin Rose (71).

Karlsson leads BMW Open

NORD-EICHENRIED, Germany — Robert Karlsson shot a 1-under-par 71 in the rain and wind, giving him a two-stroke lead after three rounds at the BMW Open.

Karlsson was at 16-under 200 but 16 players were within five strokes of the Swede, who won this tournament in 1997.

Lee Westwood was three strokes back after a 70.

Continued on Page 10

\$300,000 hotel heist

A man posing as the manager for hip-hop artist Trina stole more than \$300,000 in cash and property from her and two other entertainers, North Carolina police said.

The artist, whose full name is Katrina Laverne Taylor, was performing early Friday at Club Dynasty when the assailant persuaded a hotel employee to give him a key to the artist's rooms, police said.

Property stolen at the Greenville Hilton included jewelry, clothes, promotional items and music equipment, according to authorities. No arrests had been made as of Saturday.

"Sixteen years in the business and this has never happened," said Mike Hopkins, Trina's actual manager.

The hotel's general manager, Rhessa Tucker, denied Hopkins' claims that a roster of entourage members was available to hotel employees.

Trina's best-selling album, "Diamond Princess," was released last year.

World affairs saddens actor

Veteran actor Omar Sharif smiles about life, but cries about the state of the world.

Sharif was at the Venice Film Festival to present his comeback film "Monsieur Ibrahim" and receive a career Golden Lion award.

Faces 'n' places

The Egyptian-born actor said he was positive about "the adventure of life" but pessimistic when it came to "reality."

"There is this terrible disparity between the rich and the poor that generates violence, creates differences, sows hate," he said in Saturday's *Corriere della Sera* newspaper.

Thou art together again

Gwyneth Paltrow and Joseph Fiennes are to perform the famous balcony scene from *Shakespeare's* "Romeo and Juliet" before Prince Charles at a royal performance Monday.

The pair, who co-starred in 1998's "Shakespeare in Love," are being reunited for the Prince's Trust charity event at London's Globe Theater, the trust said Friday.

Paltrow will meet Prince Charles, patron of the charity, after her performance.

Paul Scofield, Diana Rigg and Jane Lapotaire also will don 17th-century costumes to recreate scenes from Shakespeare's works.

The trust, which aids disadvantaged youngsters, hopes to raise \$150,000 from the event.

Tribute to Abbott, Costello

Who's on first, What's on second and Abbott and Costello are on the facade.

Montclair State University has named its new recreation center for the New Jersey-born comedy team best known for the "Who's on First" baseball routine.

"We wanted to not only honor our state's heritage but also be a little creative," Montclair State University president Susan A. Cole told *The Record of Bergen County*, N.J.

Lou Costello, the pudgy, animated half of the duo, was a Paterson native, and straight man Bud Abbott hailed from Asbury Park.

University officials chose the comedians after polling students.

The center, located in a \$65 million complex that features four new residence halls, will be opened Tuesday. The other buildings also will be named after notable New Jerseyans.

Such tributes are the norm at Montclair State. Count Basie Hall salutes the Red Bank jazz great, who received an honorary degree from the university in 1982.

Other buildings have been named after pipe-smoking Rep. Millicent Fenwick of Bernardsville, Mount Laurel social reformer and suffragette Alice Paul and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and doctor William Carlos Williams, who was born in Rutherford.

From The Associated Press

Americans advance to quarters at U.S. Open

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Forget for a moment that Taylor Dent faced a match point against No. 15-seeded Fernando Gonzalez. Or that Dent had to overcome two significant trends in his career: never having won a five-set match or reached the fourth round at a major.

Dent managed to win, thanks in large part to 26 aces and top-notch volleying, turning in the only upset of a seeded player Saturday at the U.S. Open.

And yet it was about the most matter-of-fact happening on a wet and wacky day at the National Tennis Center. The total attendance was a record 57,115, and everywhere those fans went, something odd seemed to ensue:

■ Jennifer Capriati complained about the blimp hanging over Arthur Ashe Stadium.

■ After 4½ hours of action, Jonas Bjorkman had to wait out a three-hour rain delay to play one point and finish his victory.

■ After a set, a game and a point, Andre Agassi's match against Yevgeny

Kafelnikov was put off for about 24 hours.

Agassi finished off the match on Sunday, advancing with a 6-3, 7-6 (7-4), 6-4 victory.

■ French Open champion Justine Henin-Hardenne's match was moved to tiny Court 11 when the Grandstand was deemed unusable because an air blower leaked oil while drying rainwater.

■ Ivan Ljubicic held a news conference just to discuss his comments at a news conference the night before, when he criticized Andy Roddick's on-court behavior.

Ljubicic said he didn't think he needed to apologize for ripping Roddick about his on-court behavior after losing to the rising star Friday night in a tight four-setter that ended shortly after midnight.

As Ljubicic put it Saturday: "He is Andy Roddick, we are in the States, and if somebody says something bad about him, then it's a big boom. ...

"I'm sorry if he's expecting everybody's going to like him," Ljubicic added. "He thinks he's the best, the greatest, the most beautiful. But that's not the case."

On Sunday, Lindsay Davenport, was extended to three sets for the first time in the tournament but defeated hard-serving Russian Nadia Petrova 6-0, 6-7 (6), 6-2 to reach the quarterfinals.

Capriati reached the quarterfinals by winning Saturday despite complaining that the blimp was closer to the court than normal and that the noise was distracting. Still, the three-time major champion persevered, eventually found a comfort zone and pounded out a 6-2, 2-6, 6-2 victory over Emilie Loit to reach the round of 16.

"When you're playing worse, everything sort of becomes louder than when you're playing well," the No. 6-seeded Capriati said. "If something is bothering me, I try to stop it or focus a little harder."

She switched outfits because the temperature dipped into the 60s, and she switched rackets to try to account for swirling wind and heavy humidity. And then there were the problems with her serve — Capriati was broken three straight times bridging the second and third sets. But her powerful strokes eventually took their toll on the light-hitting Loit, a Frenchwoman

ranked 49th who likes to mix speeds during a point.

At least Capriati must have been thrilled to finish before the rain came.

She will make the Open quarterfinals for a third straight year if she can beat No. 11 Elena Dementieva, who got past Amy Frazier 7-6 (1), 7-6 (3) in another of the handful of matches completed before the first downpour of this Open made everyone put their rackets away.

Agassi will face the unseeded Dent, who beat Chile's Gonzalez 7-6 (9), 6-7 (3), 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-4. The 22-year-old son of former Top 20 player Phil Dent won points on 111 of 170 trips to the net.

"I'm pretty excited. I don't think it's fully sunk in yet. I'm just kind of trying to stay focused, getting ready for Agassi or Kafelnikov," Dent said. "It was a fun match. The Chileans were going crazy, and as soon as I had a run going, hit a couple of good shots, the New York crowd was going crazy. It was deafening sometimes, it was so loud."

Another young American, Robby Ginepri, was ousted by 33-year-old Todd Martin 6-7 (2), 7-6 (4), 6-4, 6-4. Martin, the 1999 runner-up, next plays French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero.

Giants 2, Diamondbacks 1

PHOENIX — Barry Bonds homered off Randy Johnson in his return to the San Francisco lineup, leading Jerome Williams and the Giants past Arizona on Saturday.

Bonds, who missed six games after his father's death last week, reached on an infield single in the first, then hit a 403-foot homer into the right-field stands leading off the fourth.

Bobby Bonds died Aug. 23 at age 57 after being ill for nearly a year with lung cancer and a brain tumor.

Overwhelmed by emotion, Bonds left in the eighth inning with an accelerated heart rate. He felt better after the game, and trainer Stan Conte said the team would monitor his heart rate through the night. Bonds was expected to play Sunday.

National League

Bonds' home run was his major league-leading 40th of the season and the 653rd of his career. He moved within seven homers of his godfather, Willie Mays, for third place on the all-time list.

Bonds has seven 40-homer seasons, one short of Hank Aaron's National League mark and four behind Babe Ruth's major league mark.

Rich Aurilia also homered off Johnson (4-7), who struck out 11 in seven innings.

Williams (6-3) took a four-hit shutout into the ninth for his first victory since July 12, and Tim Lincecum got his 30th save in 36 chances.

Marlins 4, Expos 3

MIAMI — Carl Pavano pitched eight-plus innings, and Juan Encarnacion homered and drove in four runs as Florida held on to beat Livan Hernandez and Montreal.

Marlins All-Star third baseman Mike Lowell broke his left hand when he was hit by a pitch and is expected to miss the rest of the regular season — a huge blow to Florida's playoff hopes.

The victory kept the Marlins tied with Philadelphia for the NL wild-card lead.

Pavano (11-11) allowed four hits before Vladimir Guerrero led off the ninth with a homer and Wil Cordero singled.

Braden Looper gave up a two-run double to Brian Schneider before getting the final two outs — with runners on second and third — for his 25th save in 29 chances.

Hernandez (14-8) lost for the first time in six starts and just the second time in more than two months. The right-hander allowed three runs in six innings. It was the most runs he's given up in eight starts.

Brewers 9, Cubs 5

CHICAGO — Richie Sexson homered and drove in four runs, Scott Podsednik stole home and Matt Kinney won his third straight start as Milwaukee got back to its winning ways by beating Chicago.

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Ernie Els of South Africa had a triple bogey on the 15th and faded with a 74 for 213.

Ahern takes Tradition lead with late third-round surge

ALOHA, Ore. — Jim Ahern birdied three of the final four holes for a 4-under 68 to take a one-stroke lead after the third round of Jeld-Wen Tradition, the final major this season on the Champions Tour.

Ahern was at 14-under 202 after 54 holes heading into Sunday's final round at the Reserve Vineyards and Golf Club west of Portland.

Second-round leader Tom Watson faltered with four bogeys to finish a stroke back at 13-under with a 1-over 73. Tom Kite and Morris Hatalesky each shot 5-under 67s to join Watson at 13-under.

Kung fends off challengers

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Candie Kung played just well enough to keep her lead as Laura Davies and others closed the gap heading into the final round of the LPGA State Farm Classic.

After leading by four strokes through two rounds, Kung built her lead to five before stumbling. She finished the day with a 1-under 71 for a one-shot lead over Davies, a 20-time tour winner.

Hee-Won Han shot a 69 and is in third at 12 under, followed by Karen Stupples, whose 68 put her at 10 under.

U.S. men lock up Athens berth with rough win vs. Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The United States qualified for the Olympics without throwing any punches, getting hit by too much debris or blowing a huge lead — but just barely in all three cases.

In a game marred by an altercation between Tracy McGrady and Eddie Casiano, the U.S. team defeated Puerto Rico 87-71 Saturday night in the Tournament of the Americas.

Also qualifying for the Athens Olympics was Argentina, which easily defeated Canada 88-72.

Sports in brief continued

The U.S. team's victory was fairly easy, too, but it almost got real ugly.

A pushing and shoving match broke out between McGrady and Casiano at the end of the first half. It was broken up by players and coaches from both teams as fans tossed drinks and debris onto the court. Both teams left the court peacefully, and there were no further altercations.

"That's the difference between the first Dream Team and the rest. The first were players with class, these are immature kids," Casiano said. "They have huge talent, but they need to grow up."

The United States and Argentina will play in the gold medal game Sunday night, while a third Olympic berth will go to the winner of the third-place game between Puerto Rico and Canada.

Vickers wins Busch race

DARLINGTON, S.C. — Teenage teammates Brian Vickers and Kyle Busch finished 1-2 in the Busch Series Winn-Dixie 200 at Darlington Raceway on Saturday.

The 19-year-old Vickers was trailing veteran Winston Cup driver Michael Waltrip late in the race when Scott Wimmer's crash brought out the fifth caution flag of the race.

All the leaders pitted, and Vickers' Hendrick Motorsports crew got him back onto the track just ahead of Waltrip.

Double gold medalist White denies wrongdoing

SAINT-DENIS, France — U.S. sprinter Kelli White said her positive drug test at the World Championships stemmed from prescription medicine for a sleep disorder, and the double gold medalist denied ever taking drugs to enhance her performance.

Track's world governing body is investigating a sample from White, whose gold medals in the 100 and 200 meters are in jeopardy.

She is the only American woman to win an event at these World Championships, and the only U.S. woman to win both sprints at a world meet.

"Because I know that I did nothing wrong and sought no advantage over my competitors, I am confident that things will work out in the end," said White, who withdrew from the U.S. 400-meter relay team. "The mere fact of this allegation is personally harmful and hurtful. I have never taken any substance to enhance my performance."

At 48, former hurdle champ mounts 'limited' comeback

PARIS — Hurdling great Edwin Moses is returning to the track — 14 years after his retirement — with the goal of qualifying for next year's U.S. Olympic Trials.

The two-time Olympic gold medalist in the 400-meter hurdles, winner of 122 consecutive races over almost a decade, made the announcement on Sunday, his 48th birthday and the 20th anniversary of his last world-record run — 47.02 seconds in Koblenz, Germany.

Moses called it "a limited comeback" and expressed no illusions of returning to world-class form to challenge Felix Sanchez, the New York-born world champion who competes for the Dominican Republic.

"He would make me look the way I used to make other people look," Moses said.

Golfer Mickelson won't pitch for Triple-A Mud Hens

TOLEDO, Ohio — Phil Mickelson won't be trading in his pitching wedge for the pitcher's mound this week-end.

The Detroit Tigers said Saturday they will not offer a minor league baseball contract to the golfer.

Mickelson threw batting practice Friday to 18 Toledo Mud Hens players, most of them pitchers, hoping to earn a chance to pitch in a real game for Detroit's Triple-A affiliate. Mickelson said he was disappointed, but understood.

"If I can get my velocity up, we may revisit this," he said.

From The Associated Press

No. 1 Oklahoma 37, North Texas 3

NORMAN, Okla. — Jason White threw three touchdown passes and Oklahoma's defense was as good as advertised as the No. 1 Sooners opened the season with a 37-3 victory over North Texas on Saturday night.

The Sooners limited North Texas to 50 yards through three quarters before the Mean Green's only scoring drive, which began against the second-stringers. Midway through the second quarter, North Texas had more penalty yards (29) than offensive yards (18) and didn't cross midfield until just before halftime.

White went 23-for-35 for 248 yards, including a 64-yard touchdown pass to receiver Brandon Jones early in the second quarter that left a defender sprawled on the ground and gave Oklahoma a 17-0 lead.

No. 2 Ohio State 28, No. 17 Washington 9

COLUMBUS, Ohio — With Craig Krenzle directing the offense and the same stout defense that won the national title, Ohio State didn't miss Maurice Clarett a bit.

Krenzle accounted for 230 yards and ran for two first-half scores as the second-ranked Buckeyes opened the season with a punishing victory over No. 17 Washington.

Clarett showed little emotion as he stood on the sideline in a red sweat suit serving the first of his multi-game suspension for violating NCAA rules.

His replacements, Maurice Hall and Lydell Ross, each ran for a score in the Buckeyes' 15th straight victory, the second-longest streak in school history. Hall finished with 58 yards on 15 carries and Ross had 43 on 12.

The defensive line led by Simon Fraser, Will Smith and Darriin Scott gave Cody Pickett no time to throw and held the Huskies to seven yards rushing.

No. 4 Michigan 45, Central Michigan 7

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Chris Perry ran for a career-high 232 yards and two touchdowns as No. 4 Michigan beat Central Michigan.

The Wolverines scored three TDs in the third quarter to turn the opener for both teams into a rout after leading 17-0 at halftime.

Michigan's John Navarre was 19-for-33 passing for 245 yards with two TDs and an interception. He joined Rick Leach as the only quarterbacks in school history to start four season openers.

Terrence Jackson led Central Michigan with 104 yards on 21 carries.

No. 8 USC 23, No. 6 Auburn 0

AUBURN, Ala. — Matt Leinart passed for 192 yards in his first start and No. 8 Southern California set up 17 points with three turnovers in a season-opening victory over sixth-ranked Auburn.

The Trojans, who won the final eight games of last season, hardly seemed to miss Heisman Trophy winner Carson Palmer.

The Tigers never got past USC's 33-yard line and were outgained 315-164.

The Trojans muzzled the Tigers' heralded tailbacks Carnell Williams and Ronnie Brown, and harassed quarterback Jason Campbell into a fumble and an interception.

Leinart, a sophomore who didn't throw a pass as Palmer's backup last season, was 17-for-30 and threw a 5-yard touchdown pass to Mike Williams, making few mistakes in his starting debut. Williams had eight catches for 104 yards.

Hershel Dennis ran for 85 yards on 21 carries for the Trojans.

No. 7 Kansas St. 41, Troy St. 5

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Eli Roberson ran for three touchdowns and threw for 234 yards and another score as No. 7 Kansas State overcame its own mistakes to beat Troy State.

Roberson was 9-for-23 with two interceptions and ran for 69 yards for the Wildcats (2-0), who lost star running back Darren Sproles to an apparent leg injury late in the first half.

No. 11 Georgia 30, Clemson 0

CLEMSON, S.C. — David Greene threw for one touchdown and ran for another as No. 11 Georgia handed Clemson its first shutout under coach Tommy Bowden.

Greene went 12-for-17 for 203 yards, including a 56-yard touchdown pass to Fred Gibson. Greene added a 3-yard touchdown run and D.J. Shockley closed the scoring with a 29-yard scoring run.

Georgia's defense held Clemson to 35 yards rushing and 199 yards of offense overall.

College football

No. 12 Tennessee 24, Fresno State 6

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Casey Clausen threw two touchdown passes and Jabari Davis ran 44 yards for another score as No. 12 Tennessee beat Fresno State in the season opener.

Tennessee racked up 433 yards of total offense, the most since a six-overtime victory over Arkansas in October, and 274 yards rushing behind a stronger and healthy offensive line.

Cedric Houston led Tennessee with 161 yards on 19 rushes.

Fresno State's Rodney Davis had a school-record 1,586 yards rushing last season but was held to 16 yards on 13 carries.

No. 13 Florida St. 37, North Carolina 0

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Florida State returned to the scene of its worst regular-season loss in 16 years and had little trouble this time.

Chris Rix ran for a pair of short touchdowns and threw for another score as the 13th-ranked Seminoles built a 27-point halftime lead and cruised to a season-opening victory over North Carolina.

Rix had four turnovers in an embarrassing 41-9 loss to the Tar Heels here in 2001 — his third career start and the program's most lopsided regular-season loss since Auburn beat the Seminoles 59-27 in 1985.

But two years later, the junior finished 17-for-26 for 232 yards as Bobby Bowden won his 333rd game while improving to 26-2 in openers at FSU.

No. 14 LSU 49, La-Monroe 7

BATON ROUGE, La. — Matt Mauck threw three touchdown passes in a 6½-minute span to lead No. 14 LSU over Louisiana-Monroe in the opener for both teams.

Mauck, who missed the final seven games of last season with torn ligaments in his foot, finished 13-for-28 for 153 yards. He was intercepted once before being replaced by Marcus Randall in the third quarter.

Louisiana-Monroe, 6-28 over the past three seasons, held the Tigers scoreless until the final 6:37 of the first half.

No. 16 N.C. State 59, Western Carolina 20

RALEIGH, N.C. — Tramain Hall had a 67-yard punt return for a touchdown, and Philip Rivers threw three touchdown passes as No. 16 North Carolina State beat Western Carolina.

Hall also had a 6-yard touchdown catch in his Wolfpack debut as N.C. State won its seventh straight season opener. Western Carolina fell to 0-21 against current Atlantic Coast Conference schools and 0-5 against the Wolfpack.

No. 18 Virginia 27, Duke 0

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Virginia beat Duke, but the No. 18 Cavaliers lost quarterback Matt Schaub to an injury on the opening series and he watched the second half with his arm in a sling.

The school said only that Schaub had injured his shoulder and did not immediately release any additional details about the 2002 ACC offensive player of the year, for whom a Heisman Trophy campaign was planned.

In Schaub's absence, redshirt freshman Anthony Martinez took over at quarterback and shook off some early jitters to help send Duke to its 26th consecutive loss in conference play.

No. 21 Wisconsin 24, West Virginia 17

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Anthony Davis ran for a 1-yard touchdown with 2:57 remaining as No. 21 Wisconsin rallied from a 10-point second-half deficit to beat West Virginia.

Special team miscues and injuries to West Virginia's top two offensive players kept Wisconsin in the game. The Badgers' offense finally came alive behind the scrambling of quarterback Jim Sorgi and the running of Davis, who carried 30 times for 167 yards.

Sorgi was 20-for-34 for 215 yards, including a 20-yard TD pass to Lee Evans that tied the score at 17 early in the fourth quarter.

Quincy Wilson ran for two scores for West Virginia, but he left with a leg injury early in the fourth quarter and did not return.

He finished with 99 yards on 24 carries.

Colorado 42, No. 23 Colorado St. 35

DENVER — Bobby Purify scored on a 9-yard run with 40 seconds left, and Joel Klatt threw for 402 yards and four touchdowns in his first start as Colorado beat No. 23 Colorado State.

Colorado State tied the game at 35 with 1:50 left when Bradlee Van Pelt broke two tackles on an option run for a 30-yard touchdown.

Colorado got the ball back on its 25-yard line with 1:44 left and marched quickly down the field. Colorado's fans thought Purify scored on a 4-yard run with 48 seconds left, but it was called back by a procedure penalty.

Purify left no doubt on the second try, breaking around left end and diving to the corner pylon to give Colorado its first victory in an opener in five years under coach Gary Barnett.

Nebraska 17, No. 24 Oklahoma St. 7

LINCOLN, Neb. — Josh Davis and Jammal Lord combined for 185 yards rushing and Nebraska limited No. 24 Oklahoma State to 57 yards in the second half to win the opener for both teams.

The victory was Nebraska's 17th straight in a season opener and ended its six-game losing streak against ranked opponents.

Nebraska converted two of Oklahoma State's five turnovers into third-quarter touchdowns to turn a 7-3 halftime deficit into a 17-7 lead.

Davis ran 20 times for 95 yards and Lord 18 times for 90.

Tatum Bell led the Cowboys with 87 yards rushing, but had a costly fumble returned for a touchdown.

Navy 37, VMI 10

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Craig Candeto and Navy's seniors finally have a home victory to their credit.

Kyle Eckel ran for two touchdowns and a career-high 129 yards as Navy snapped a 14-game home losing streak by beating Virginia Military Institute 37-10 on Saturday.

Quarterback Craig Candeto gained 96 yards rushing and scored twice for Navy (1-0). The Midshipmen had not won at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium since beating Tulane 45-21 on Nov. 13, 1999.

"It feels great," Candeto said. "[Losing] wears on you big time. You come out each week and don't have success in football games. Trying to come out hard in practice gets tough every week."

The Midshipmen piled up 598 yards of total offense, including 370 yards on the ground.

"I'm happy to have a win, proud of the effort," Navy coach Paul Johnson said. "We made a lot of mistakes, and there's a lot of room for improvement. But that usually happens in first games."

The Midshipmen, who have won consecutive season openers under second-year coach Paul Johnson, took a 7-0 lead on an 18-yard touchdown scamper by Tony Lane midway through the first quarter.

Navy then scored on three successive second-quarter possessions for a 28-0 lead at halftime.

Air Force 49, Wofford 0

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Air Force missed Dan Shaffer last season. He returned Saturday and made an immediate impact.

Shaffer scored three touchdowns in his first game since the opener in 2002, and Fisher DeBerry won his 150th game as Air Force beat Wofford 49-0.

"I'm so happy for Dan," DeBerry said. "I don't think any of us realized the tremendous sacrifice he's made for this team. I've never been around a guy who was any more determined to come back."

Shaffer, who tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee against Northwestern in the opener last year and missed the season, ran for 64 yards on 12 carries. Quarterback Chance Harridge ran for 92 yards and a touchdown and was 5-for-9 passing for another 61 yards for Air Force.

"It was an awesome feeling to get back into the end zone," Shaffer said. "It made all the work worth it."

DeBerry, a 1960 graduate of Wofford, improved to 150-83-1 in his 20-year coaching career.

Wofford, a Division I-AA team, managed only nine first downs and 175 yards of total offense. The Terriers crossed midfield twice in the first half, reaching the Air Force 37 on their first possession before being forced to punt.

The Terriers had 54 yards of total offense in the second half.

"We were hunting and pecking on offense all game and could not be consistent," Wofford coach Mike Ayers said. "You give Air Force the ball too many times, and they are going to grind you and wear you down."

From The Associated Press

National League continued

Continued from Page 10

The Brewers had a 10-game winning streak — the second-longest in franchise history — snapped Friday. But they wasted little time starting another one, tagging Cubs starter Shawn Estes (7-11) for five runs in the first two innings.

Kinney (10-9) allowed four earned runs in 5 1/3 innings. The Brewers have won 12 of 14.

Pinch-hitter Troy O'Leary had a three-run homer for Chicago.

Braves 13, Pirates 6

PITTSBURGH — Rookie Mike Hessman hit a two-run homer in only his second start for Atlanta, keying a seven-run third inning that ruined Oliver Perez's debut with Pittsburgh.

Javy Lopez and Mark DeRosa had two-run doubles off Perez (4-8), who retired only one of the seven batters he faced in the third. He left after allowing six runs and four hits in 2 2/3 innings.

Horacio Ramirez (9-4) withstood Craig Wilson's three-run homer in the fourth to last seven innings and win for the first time in eight starts since July 7.

Gary Sheffield had three RBIs, Andruw Jones hit his 32nd homer and Marcus Giles added his 19th for Atlanta.

The Pirates had won four straight.

Dodgers 5, Rockies 0

LOS ANGELES — Jeremy Burnitz's two-run single keyed a four-run sixth inning as Los Angeles beat Colorado.

Guillermo Mota (4-2) got the victory in relief of Kazuhisa Ishii for the Dodgers, who were held hitless through the first five innings by Denny Stark (2-3).

The victory moved Los Angeles within 1 1/2 games of Florida and Philadelphia in the NL wild-card race.

Mota, who leads all NL relievers with 87 innings, retired all six batters he faced and struck out four while lowering his ERA to 1.55 in 62 appearances.

Stark allowed four runs, two hits and a season-high six walks in 5 1/3 innings.

Phillies 4, Mets 2

NEW YORK — Randy Wolf, coming off the worst start of his career, handcuffed New York for seven innings and pitched Philadelphia to a victory.

The victory kept the Phillies tied with Florida atop the NL wild-card race. Philadelphia bunched four singles

against Tom Glavine (9-12) to break a 2-2 tie in the seventh. Mike Lieberthal and Jason Michaels drove in runs to finish Glavine, who allowed 11 hits.

Wolf (13-8) allowed nine earned runs in less than two innings in his last start at Montreal, part of a stretch of nine Philadelphia losses in 10 games. He was much sharper against the Mets, allowing two runs and six hits and adding an RBI single.

Jose Mesa got three outs for his 23rd save in 26 chances.

Rookie Jason Phillips tagged Wolf for the 5,000th home run in Mets history, a two-run shot.

Cardinals 6, Reds 3

CINCINNATI — Jim Edmonds drove in four runs with a homer and a double and made another sensational catch atop the center-field wall, leading St. Louis over Cincinnati.

The Cardinals' first victory in six games at Great American Ball Park kept them in first place in the NL Central.

St. Louis also got back leadoff hitter Fernando Vina, who was activated from the disabled list.

Brett Tomko (11-8) beat his former team for the first time in five career starts, giving up three runs in 5 2/3 innings. Tomko was bitter when the Reds traded him to Seattle in 2000 in the deal for Ken Griffey Jr.

Four relievers combined to hold the lead, with Jason Isringhausen pitching the ninth for his 16th save in 17 chances.

Edmonds hit a two-run shot in the first off Aaron Harang (3-2) and has 34 homers overall.

Astros 11, Padres 6

HOUSTON — Lance Berkman and Morgan Ensberg homered, and knuckleballer Jared Fernandez pitched six solid innings in Houston's victory over San Diego.

Fernandez (2-3) allowed one run and five hits as he snapped a personal three-game losing streak.

The Astros used four pitchers in the Padres' five-run seventh inning but held on and maintained a first-place tie with St. Louis in the NL Central.

Billy Wagner got four outs for his 36th save in 39 chances.

Kevin Jarvis (4-7) lasted 5 1/3 innings and allowed seven runs, losing his fifth straight decision.

From The Associated Press

Scores/standings

Men's college football Top 25 fared

How the top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college football poll fared this Saturday:

No. 1 Oklahoma (1-0) beat North Texas 37-3. Next: at Alabama, Saturday.

No. 2 Ohio State (1-0) beat No. 17 Washington 28-9. Next: vs. San Diego State, Saturday.

No. 3 Miami (1-0) did not play. Next: vs. Florida, Saturday.

No. 4 Michigan (1-0) beat Central Michigan 45-7. Next: vs. Houston, Saturday.

No. 5 Texas (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. New Mexico State, Sunday.

No. 6 Auburn (0-1) lost to No. 8 Southern Cal 23-0. Next: at Georgia Tech, Saturday.

No. 7 Kansas State (2-0) beat Troy State 41-5. Next: vs. McNeese State, Saturday.

No. 8 Southern Cal (1-0) beat No. 6 Auburn 23-0. Next: vs. Brigham Young, Saturday.

No. 9 Virginia Tech (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. UCF, Sunday. Next: vs. James Madison, Saturday.

No. 10 Pittsburgh (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Kent State, Saturday.

No. 11 Georgia (1-0) beat Clemson 30-0. Next: vs. Middle Tennessee, Saturday.

No. 12 Tennessee (1-0) beat Fresno State 24-6. Next: vs. Marshall, Saturday.

No. 13 Florida State (1-0) beat North Carolina 37-0. Next: vs. No. 15 Maryland, Saturday.

No. 14 LSU (1-0) beat Louisiana-Monroe 49-7. Next: at Arizona, Saturday.

No. 15 Maryland (0-1) did not play. Next: at No. 13 Florida State, Saturday.

No. 16 North Carolina State (1-0) beat Western Carolina 59-20. Next: at Wake Forest, Saturday.

No. 17 Washington (0-1) lost to No. 2 Ohio State 28-9. Next: vs. Indiana, Saturday.

No. 18 Virginia (1-0) beat Duke 27-0. Next: at South Carolina, Saturday.

No. 19 Purdue (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Bowling Green, Saturday.

No. 20 Notre Dame (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Washington State, Saturday.

No. 21 Wisconsin (1-0) beat West Virginia 24-17. Next: vs. Akron, Saturday.

No. 22 Arizona State (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. Northern Arizona, Saturday.

No. 23 Colorado State (0-1) lost to Colorado 42-35. Next: at California, Saturday.

No. 24 Oklahoma State (0-1) lost to Nebraska 17-7. Next: vs. Wyoming, Saturday.

No. 25 TCU (0-0) did not play. Next: at Tulane, Monday.

American League

East Division		W	L	Pct	GB
New York	82	52	.612	—	
Boston	78	57	.578	4 1/2	
Toronto	67	68	.496	15 1/2	
Baltimore	61	74	.452	21 1/2	
Tampa Bay	53	81	.396	29	

Central Division		W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	72	64	.529	—	
Kansas City	70	63	.526	1/2	
Minnesota	71	64	.526	1/2	
Cleveland	60	76	.441	12	
Detroit	34	100	.254	37	

West Division		W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	81	55	.596	—	
Seattle	79	57	.581	2	
Anaheim	65	70	.481	15 1/2	
Texas	61	75	.449	20	

Saturday's games

N.Y. Yankees 10, Boston 7
Seattle 13, Baltimore 1
Anaheim at Kansas City, ppd., rain
Chicago White Sox 5, Detroit 2
Toronto 9, Cleveland 3
Oakland 4, Tampa Bay 2
Minnesota 2, Texas 0

National League

East Division		W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	86	49	.637	—	
Florida	72	63	.533	14	
Philadelphia	72	63	.533	14	
Montreal	71	66	.518	16	
New York	59	75	.440	26 1/2	

Central Division		W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	71	64	.526	—	
St. Louis	71	64	.526	—	
Chicago	69	65	.515	1 1/2	
Pittsburgh	62	71	.466	8	
Cincinnati	59	76	.437	12	
Milwaukee	59	76	.437	12	

West Division		W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	81	53	.604	—	
Los Angeles	70	64	.522	11	
Arizona	70	65	.519	11 1/2	
Colorado	65	73	.471	18	
San Diego	54	82	.397	28	

Saturday's games

Atlanta 13, Pittsburgh 6
San Francisco 2, Arizona 1
Milwaukee 9, Chicago Cubs 5
Florida 4, Montreal 3
St. Louis 6, Cincinnati 3
Philadelphia 4, N.Y. Mets 2
Houston 11, San Diego 6
Los Angeles 5, Colorado 0

From The Associated Press

Yankees 10, Red Sox 7

BOSTON — Andy Pettitte outlasted Pedro Martinez, surviving early trouble to earn his 17th victory Saturday as New York beat Boston and extended its lead in the American League East to 4 1/2 games.

Jorge Posada homered twice and Nick Johnson had four hits and four RBIs to help Pettitte (17-7) move into a tie for the league lead in victories. He allowed three earned runs on seven hits in seven innings, striking out seven to win for the fourth consecutive start and 12th time in 13 decisions.

Mariano Rivera earned his 30th save despite contributing to Boston's three-run eighth inning that cut New York's lead to one.

Martinez (10-4) struggled to make it through the fourth, allowing five runs on nine hits and striking out three.

White Sox 5, Tigers 2

DETROIT — Frank Thomas and Carlos Lee homered as Chicago handed Detroit its 100th loss of the season.

The Tigers (34-100) join the 1962 Mets as the only teams in the modern era to lose 100 games before September.

Mike Maroth (6-19) took the loss and is one defeat from becoming the first pitcher since Oakland's Brian Kingman in 1980 to lose 20 games in a season.

Maroth, expected to start again

Thursday against Cleveland or Friday in Toronto, allowed five runs on eight hits and two walks in 6 2/3 innings.

Jon Garland (10-10) earned his second victory in six August starts, allowing two runs on five hits and four walks in six-plus innings.

Mariners 13, Orioles 1

SEATTLE — Carlos Guillen had two doubles and three RBIs in a 10-run fifth inning, leading Gil Meche to his first victory in four starts as Seattle routed Baltimore.

Seattle scored all 10 runs with two outs, and five of the runs came after third baseman Tony Batista's fielding error. Rey Sanchez also had three RBIs for the Mariners, who cut Oakland's lead in the AL West to 1 1/2 games and moved ahead of Boston by a half-game in the wild-card race.

The Orioles committed three errors, leading to seven unearned runs, and lost their seventh in a row to drop to a season-worst 13 games under .500.

Meche (14-10) became the first pitcher in the majors since 1956 to win 14 games after missing the previous two seasons. He missed the 2001 season when he underwent two major shoulder surgeries and pitched at Triple-A

Tacoma in the minor leagues last season.

Blue Jays 9, Indians 3

CLEVELAND — Frank Catalanotto hit a three-run homer and Cory Lidle got his first victory in more than a month for Toronto.

Catalanotto hit the second pitch thrown by reliever Rafael Betancourt into the Blue Jays' bullpen in right field for his 11th homer to cap a four-run sixth inning and give Toronto a 5-1 lead.

Lidle (12-11), in his second start since missing three weeks with a strained left groin, got his first victory since July 25. He allowed two runs and five hits over 6 1/3 innings to improve to 3-0 with a 1.54 career ERA at Jacobs Field.

Josh Towers gave up one run over the final 2 2/3 innings and earned his first career save.

Reed Johnson's hit-and-run single off Jake Westbrook (6-8) scored Chris Woodward from second base to break a 1-1 tie in the sixth.

Athletics 4, Devil Rays 2

OAKLAND, Calif. — Ted Lilly took a

one-hitter into the seventh inning as Oakland beat Tampa Bay for its season-high eighth straight victory.

Lilly (8-9) retired 11 of his first 12 batters before allowing an infield single to Aubrey Huff in the fourth as the A's retained a two-game lead in the AL West and improved to a major league-best 19-9 in August.

Lilly gave up a run, three hits and struck out seven in 6 2/3 innings to improve to 3-1 over his past seven starts. Keith Foulke pitched the ninth for his AL-leading 37th save in 42 chances.

Rob Bell (3-3) retired 11 straight hitters after Chavez's two-run double in the third, but it wasn't enough to prevent the Devil Rays from losing to the A's for the 16th time in 18 games.

Twins 2, Rangers 0

ARLINGTON, Texas — Johan Santana pitched six shutout innings before leaving with a left hamstring injury, and Shannon Stewart drove in two runs for Minnesota.

Santana (9-3) allowed five hits to win his sixth straight decision. Santana, 8-2 in his 13 starts this season, struck out four and didn't walk a batter.

Santana went out to warm up for the seventh, but was favoring his left leg. He was replaced by Juan Rincon.

Eddie Guardado pitched a perfect ninth for his 31st save in 34 chances.

From The Associated Press

American League